BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.80 BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 44 | PRICE ₹6**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Myanmar's pro-military lawmakers elect junta chief Min Aung Hlaing as president, with the ex-armed forces commander set to maintain his rule in a civilian guise after snatching power by force 5 yrs ago

President Donald **Trump imposes 100% tariffs on patented drugs** imported into the US unless makers agree to govt drug pricing deals or produce domestically. **India unlikely to be affected,** P 12

Former Maoist politburo member Prashant Bose, alias **Kishan Da**, who was in jail since Nov 2021, **dies** at Ranchi hospital. He was 81. At the time of his arrest, he had a bounty of ₹1cr

A day after AAP removed him as deputy leader of the party in Rajya Sabha, **Raghav Chadha says he won't be cowed by attempts to silence him,** drawing a fierce backlash from his colleagues, P 7

Govt confident of support for women bills

Unity among key opposition parties could be enough to torpedo govt's move to get Parliament to reconvene for legislative nod to roll out women's quota in 2029. But robust cross-party support for the idea, coupled with increasing salience of women as a voting bloc, has lent confidence to NDA camp about the passage of its bills. Congress, TMC & Left have kept away from govt's outreach, questioning the motive and "hurry" in seeking passage of the bill in the special sitting from April 16. **P 8**

MP assembly disqualifies Cong MLA at midnight

Within hours of a Delhi court sentencing Congress' Datia MLA Rajendra Bharti to three years in jail in a bank fraud case Thursday, the MP assembly secretariat hurriedly opened its office around midnight, issued a notification on Bharti's disqualification from the assembly and declared the seat vacant. Opposition termed the "midnight" move a "blatant violation of the democratic process". **P 8**

From April 10, no cash at toll booths

The road transport ministry Thursday notified that no cash transactions for toll payments will be allowed from April 10, aiming to reduce queuing of vehicles at toll gates, often a major irritant for commuters. **P 11**

AP govt staffer raped, brutalised

A 32-year-old govt employee was brutally assaulted and raped by an unidentified man at her home in Macherla in AP Thursday. The assailant raped her at knifepoint and inserted an iron rod into her private parts. **P 7**

10 injured in ONGC fire at Mumbai High

Ten personnel were injured in a fire at ONGC South Field at Bombay High Friday evening. The cause of fire was not known at the time of going to press. The situation was brought under control and the fire doused. TNN

Woman on trek in Kodagu missing

A techie from Kerala has allegedly gone missing while trekking to Tadiyandamol, the highest peak in Karnataka's Kodagu district. Sharanya had travelled alone from Kochi and was staying at a homestay, said police. **P 5**

Third homegrown N-sub joins Navy

The country's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, was commissioned into the Navy Friday, giving a major boost to India's 'second strike capability'. **P 9**

US jet down in Iran: One pilot rescued, search on for other

Another Crashes Near Hormuz, Pilot Rescued

Chidanand Rajghatta

Washington: The United States on Friday acknowledged that it has lost an F-15E fighter jet over Iran, days after the Pentagon boasted that it has degraded Iranian air defence to such an extent that American planes are flying unimpeded over the country and President Trump threatened to bomb it to the Stone Age "where it belongs".

Quoting US and Israeli officials, reports said one of two crew members of the jet was located and rescued by US special forces, and a search for the second is ongoing. A US helicopter on search mission for the downed jet was also shot down, the Iranian media claimed, even as Tehran announced a $60,000 bounty to any citizen who locates the downed American pilot. US President Trump later said the downing of the jet would not affect negotiations with Iran.

Citing US officials, NYT reported that a second US jet, an A-10 Warthog, crashed near the Strait of Hormuz and its only pilot was rescued.

Iran continued to attack targets across West Asia, damaging a desalination plant and setting a refinery ablaze in Kuwait. Sirens also sounded in Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia said it had destroyed several Iranian drones.

FULL COVERAGE
PAGES 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13

▶US loses 4th jet, P 12

UNSC VOTES TODAY ON REOPENING HORMUZ

- After hitting Karaj bridge, **Trump vows to target more Iranian infrastructure.** Says **US has not even 'started destroying what's left in Iran**
- **Mediation efforts by regional countries, including Pak, have reached a dead end,** Wall Street Journal reports. Iran has refused to meet US officials in Islamabad in coming days
- UN Security Council to vote Saturday on a draft resolution **proposed by Bahrain** on reopening Strait of Hormuz
- After oppn from permanent members China and Russia to earlier versions that allowed for use of force, **final draft reportedly authorises defensive, but not offensive, action to ensure safe transit for ships**
- **Petrol and diesel prices up by 54% in Pakistan** on Friday, a move the govt said was 'unavoidable'. **Public transport made free for 30 days**
- **Bangladesh govt shortens office hours, closes shops earlier, reduces govt spending** across various sectors. **Prohibits decorative lighting** for functions
- Foreign vessel purportedly carrying **Iranian oil to India switches destination mid-voyage,** makes for China
- **Seventh India-flagged LPG tanker, Green Sanvi, crossing Hormuz.** Out of 17 Indian ships stranded west of Hormuz, two more set to get passage

Photo: Reuters

The 'B1 bridge' in Karaj, around 35km southwest of Tehran, was specifically targeted in US-Israeli strikes on Thursday, killing eight civilians and injuring nearly 95 others in nearby areas. Trump called it Iran's 'biggest bridge' in remarks after the attack; Tehran said, striking 'unfinished bridges' will not compel Iranians to surrender

Prez seeks $1.5tn def budget; US army chief fired

US defence secretary Pete Hegseth fired army chief Randy George on Thursday — a rare move in the middle of a war. The defence shakeup came even as the Trump White House on Friday formally requested US Congress to approve a staggering $1.5 trillion for defence in the 2027 fiscal. If enacted, the figure would not only set military spending at its highest level in modern history but also represent a 40% hike over the previous fiscal, a jump last seen during World War II. **P 12**

Trickle-down pain for contract, gig workers

Contractual and gig workers are likely to be affected as fuel and raw material supply constraints force shutdowns in certain segments of manufacturing, especially small businesses. Signs of strain are visible in steel, automotive, textiles, pharma, and medical devices, industry representatives said. The LPG crisis has curbed operations of restaurants and cloud kitchens or led to temporary shutdowns. Gig workers are already impacted by the slowdown, said an industry insider. **P 13**

Shift from LPG: Govt seeks to up cooktop supply

Govt is working to step up the supply of induction cooktops and vessels, while nudging big kitchens to go electric. The govt is expected to relax some norms to create domestic production capability. Induction cookers have around 60% import component, including PCB and microcrystalline glass, while the cooking vessels need a layer of coating which is imported in large quantities. Industry executives have sought concessions, including lower duty on certain inputs as well as a cut in GST. **P 13**

500 companies of central forces to stay on in Bengal after results: EC

Bharti.Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As many as 500 companies of central armed police forces (CAPFs) will remain deployed in West Bengal for post-poll law and order duties after the poll results are out, "till further orders of the Election Commission", EC said Friday.

Each CAPF company comprises around 80-100 personnel. A total 2,400 CAPF companies have been assigned for poll deployment in West Bengal. Around 1,700 companies will leave the state after polling gets over on April 29. EC officials said besides the 500 companies that will stay back in the state to maintain law and order "long after the results", another 200 companies will be retained "till counting is completed", to secure the EVM strong-rooms and counting centres.

On Friday, CEC Gyanesh Kumar also directed the state chief secretary, DGP and all senior officials of the state administration and police to ensure electors vote without fear and elections are free of "violence, intimidation, inducement, 'chaappa' (voter impersonation), booth jamming and source jamming". Sources said EC decided to extend the stay of 500 companies of central forces in Bengal till after the elections, in view of the state's history of post-poll violence.

▶ Over 1,900 plaints, P 8

SIR-deleted voters throng govt offices

Voters excluded from electoral rolls after SIR in Bengal faced confusion during a brief 2-week appeal window, as many who approached govt offices were turned away due to a holiday and officials' election-related duties. Concerns are rising over meeting the 15-day deadline. **P 7**

Malda siege: Former AIMIM candidate held

Malda: West Bengal CID Friday arrested a former AIMIM candidate and Calcutta HC lawyer identified as the "absconding" prime suspect in the April 1 Malda violence, hours before NIA inspector general Sonia Singh's arrival in Kolkata to lead the EC-ordered probe into the mob siege in which seven judicial officers on SIR duty had been held hostage.

Moffakkerul Islam, 43, who contested the 2021 assembly polls from Itahar in North Dinajpur as AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's nominee, was arrested outside Siliguri's Bagdogra airport just as he was entering the terminal to take a flight to Bengaluru, officials said. TNN

▶19 cases registered, P 8

Mehli Mistry challenges eligibility of 2 trustees

Mumbai: Former Sir Ratan Tata Trust trustee Mehli Mistry has challenged **Venu Srinivasan** and **Vijay Singh's** positions on a Tata trust, saying they are ineligible under the 1923 deed, which bars non-Zoroastrians and non-Mumbai residents, and sought an official inquiry, **reports Reeba Zachariah.**

The Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution is an associated trust of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust, a major shareholder in Tata Sons. It was established under the will of Sir Ratanji Tata, the second son of Tata Group founder Jamsetji Tata, who bequeathed properties in Navsari, where the Tata family originated, to the trust.

> The purpose herein is not for any reinstatement of the applicant to the said trust... The **motivation is to uphold the principles of the will by which the Trust has been created,** the predecessors, Mr Ratan Tata himself, and the future trustees and custodians of these values for the welfare of the Parsi community —Mehli Mistry

▶'No person...' P 14

148 athletes: India No. 1 on int'l doping list

As many as 148 Indian track and field athletes have been suspended for doping violation, bringing India the dubious distinction of topping the Athletics Integrity Unit's (AIU) list. Kenya was second, with 146 athletes, and Russia third, at 66. The latest updated list is for the period up to April 1 this year. Prominent names in the Indian list include women's 100m national record holder Dutee Chand, middle distance runner Parvej Khan, and Tamil Nadu sprinter Sekar Dhanalakshmi. PTI

Apex court upholds harsher punishment for higher authority

New Delhi: Linking punishment with the rank an accused holds in office hierarchy, Supreme Court has said that a higher authority carries higher responsibility and so harsher will be the consequences for any service misdeeds, upholding differential penalty imposed on a senior manager, an officer and a gunman in a bank who were found guilty of misappropriating customers' money.

While the manager was sacked, the officer was forced to retire and the gunman was penalised with a pay cut, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary.**

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma said differentiation in rank coupled with responsibility and trust attached with the post are compelling grounds for a more stringent punishment on higher rank officials. It quashed a Delhi HC order which had said that there could not be discrimination in awarding punishment for the same offence. Granting relief to the manager who had sought parity with the officer, HC had reduced his punishment from termination to compulsory retirement.

"The rank of the respondent was not merely titular; it carried with it an increased degree of responsibility and integrity. The role of the respondent not only necessitated personal obedience but also supervision of the actions of the subordinates," it said.

IN THE COURTS

- Allahabad **HC seeks explanation** from UP addl chief secy **for not using 'Hon'ble'** before Union minister's name in FIR | P 9
- Sudden dismissal from service a **violation of basic dignity of labour,** says Madras high court | P 9
- Rajasthan **HC revises epilogue in transgender quota judgment** | P 9
- HC orders release of man sentenced by family court after **wife seeks recovery of ₹2.6L unpaid alimony** | P 9

▶Gravity of misconduct, P 9

Guv nudges govt to review SSLC third language grading move

Bengaluru: The debate over Karnataka's shift from marks to grades for the third language in SSLC exam has reached Raj Bhavan, with governor **Thawaar Chand Gehlot**'s office advising state govt to review the decision.

In a letter to chief secretary Shalini Rajneesh, special secretary to the governor, R Prabhu Shankar, forwarded a representation submitted by a local languages preservation group, objecting to the revised evaluation pattern.

"I am directed to forward herewith a copy of a representation submitted by the Association for Preservation of Local Languages, Bengaluru, addressed to the governor, concerning the recent decision to award only grades for the third language in SSLC exam," the letter said. The association argued that replacing marks with grades could dilute the academic significance of the third language. TNN

▶Consult stakeholders, P 5

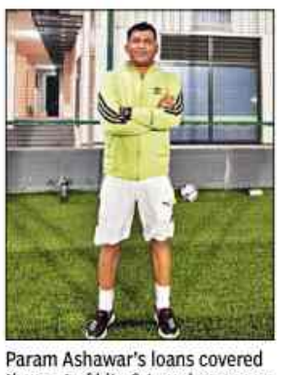
Coach borrows ₹10L, girls' team from MP gets to IWL

Ramendra Singh | TNN

Bhopal: Football coach Param Ashawar has become used to bank reminders about his multiple loan obligations.

Like Kabir Khan of 'Chak De! India' fame, who wagered his career on his women wards holding their own against the national men's hockey team, this 36-year-old NIS-certified coach took a Rs 10-lakh gamble on a team of underprivileged girls from rural Madhya Pradesh smashing the funding glass ceiling to record a historic first by making it to Tier 2 of the elite Indian Women's League (IWL).

The success of District Raisen Football Club (DRFC) was born out of Param's belief in the girls' talent and the sacrifices he was willing to make. His personal loans all went into covering the cost of his wards' training kits, travel and camp expenses.



Param Ashawar's loans covered the cost of kits & travel expenses

▶ 'If it helps team', P 8

K'taka cops set up e-beat to help 20k elders living alone

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: As part of its Aasare project, Karnataka police have set up e-beat points in areas across the state with clusters of senior citizens living alone, allowing officers to log visits and automatically notify family members, ensuring both monitoring and timely assistance.

Between Jan 17 and March 31, the project, which is scheduled for completion by June-end, helped identify 20,459 houses across the state where seniors live alone.

The statewide survey was launched by DG-IGP MA Saleem in mid-Jan. Aasare aims to keep track of seniors by visiting their homes and collecting details, including mobile phone numbers of the elderly and their close family members.

Whenever cops visit these citizens, they mark their visit on the e-beat point and a message is automatically sent to the children or other close family members of the seniors.

WILL VISIT HOMES

- Aasare project aims to keep **track of all those aged 60 and above living alone** across K'taka
- **Jurisdictional police visit such elders and assist them** with doctor appointments, hospital visits, and fetching medicines
- So far, Karnataka cops have identified 20,459 houses and **set up 14,269 e-beat points**
- Once cops log their visit on e-beat system, **a message is automatically sent to children** or family members of senior citizens

▶Sense of security, P 3

Bangalore Times

'Dev.D came from a place of rebellion'

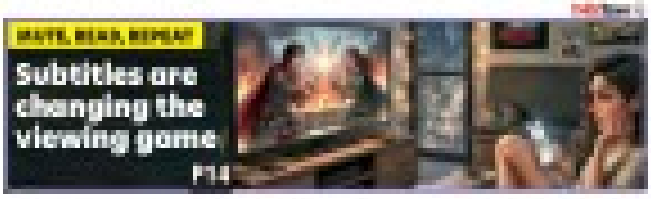
Dev.D's team weighs in on the sequel that's in the making and sparks up fan fervour for it to release

P14

CANNES WINNER, OSCAR NOMINEE, DISSENTER

Jafar Panahi returns to Iran

VOICES



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Subtitles are changing the viewing game

P14

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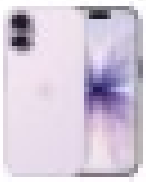

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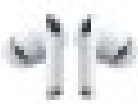

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FAITH AND FEAR

Iranian Diaspora In B'luru Struggles As War Targets Spiritual Homeland

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Dr Zahra Hussaini is fascinated by the story of her father, Sayed Hussein Hussaini, who came walking to India from Iran at the age of 12, with a large group after leaving his hometown of Yazd due to a famine.

They travelled about 3,500 km on foot over six months, and to survive on the journey, they took up carpentry and masonry work wherever they could. Many of them later settled in cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Hyderabad, where they established Irani cafés and restaurants.

Dr Hussaini, who was born and raised in Mumbai, runs a dental clinic in RT Nagar in Bengaluru, and has developed a kit for early detection of oral cancer, which is highly prevalent in rural India.

Iranians settled in Bengaluru over a century ago and contributed to its development, turning it into a garden city and building landmark properties like Lalbagh. "They acquired substantial properties, established charitable endowments, and played a role in shaping the city's landscape," says Mirza Mohmmad Mehdi, a 79-year-old Bengaluru resident of Iranian descent, who worked as a consultant with Prestige.

The Iranian community in Bengaluru has grown from about 2,000 people in earlier decades to roughly 30,000–40,000 today, with around 10,000 being Iranian descendants, continuing to impact Bengaluru's social and architectural fabric.

Members of the Iranian community served as prime ministers and governors for royal families like the Wodeyars. Richmond Town resident Rebab Al-Karimi's great-great-grandfather, Agha Aly Asker, set off to India in 1824 with his two brothers bringing 300 Arab horses to sell to the British. "He found a father figure in Sir Mark Cubbon, who served as commissioner of Mysuru, and also shared a love of horses. He was also very friendly with the then Maharaja of Mysuru Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar who appreciated good horseflesh," says Al-Karimi. Asker's grandson Sir Mirza Ismail was the prime minister of Mysuru state during the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

Akbar Mirza Khalelli, a resident of Sankey Road, was an ambassador to Iran and Italy and high commissioner to Australia while Dr Mirza Sajjad Hussain, a paediatrician, supported Iranian patients in the Iran-Iraq war before settling in Bengaluru.

Iranian students studying in Bangalore University and city colleges gave the city a cosmopolitan look.

ROOTS IN IRAN, LIFE IN B'LURU : B'luru residents Mirza Mohmmad Mehdi and his wife Mahbanu Mirza track war from afar and constantly worry about the safety of their loved ones in Iran. They describe their family as 'Indianised' with their food being influenced by the local cuisine, noting that Iranians typically exclude chilli from their dishes.

Mounting Concerns

Dr Hussaini lost her dad at a young age, but her ties with Iran remain intact.

She has had sleepless nights after the US-Israel attack on Iran. "Many of my close relatives, including my sister and her family, still live in Tehran and Karaj," says Dr Hussaini, who held an Iranian passport until ninth grade and later became a naturalised Indian citizen.

She frantically kept calling them when the war began and, to her dismay, realised that they were not reachable. "Internet was blocked for security reasons," she recalls.

Iran was ruthlessly attacked and bombarded, that too during Ramadan, says Dr Hussaini. "They intentionally chose to attack us when we were physically weak, when we were fasting and praying," she adds.

Like Dr Hussaini, Mohsin Ali Shirazi, a fifth-generation Iranian with roots in Shiraz (southern Iran), also constantly checks on his relatives in Iran. "A few weeks ago, there was a bomb blast near our new home in Iran, built by my wife, a civil engineer," says Shirazi, who runs Active Arena, a sports centre at Marathahalli in Bengaluru.

Shirazi moved to India in 1994 and completed his undergrad degree in business management at Christ College, Bengaluru. He speaks Hindi and English fluently.

No Permission To Protest

The Iranian diaspora is not allowed to hold protests against the US-Israeli war on Iran, complains Shirazi. "We are not even allowed to put up banners displaying images of revered religious scholars at private functions held at residences and prayer halls," he says.

Citing a recent incident, he says: "Hours after the confirmation of the assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Feb 28, around 2,500 members of our community gathered at Masjid-e-Askari, a mosque in Richmond Town, to mourn his death. Police initially refused permission, later permitted it after negotiations, but filed an FIR a few days later against 17 people, including an MLA."

Reminiscing Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

A prominent Iranian businessman based in Sadashivanagar, who did not want to be named, recalls hosting Ayatollah Ali Khamenei during a 1981 visit to India. He picked him up from the airport and hosted him at his home in Sadashivanagar for three days. "People would suggest naming my home after Khamenei after the visit," he says.

Sharing anecdotes about Khamenei's humility and piety, he says Khamenei asked for only one dish to be prepared to avoid inconvenience, requested to be woken at a specific time for a meeting, and slept simply on a carpet using his turban as a pillow and cloak as a blanket.

The Khamenei assassination has left Shirazi devastated. "It's hard to cope with the loss. Even if I lose my children, I won't be as heartbroken," he says.

EMERGENCE OF IRANI CAFES

Many Irani cafés are located on corner plots because such spaces were once seen as unlucky by locals, making them cheaper and easier for migrants to rent or buy. "Iranians used their intelligence and picked up the corner areas which were considered jinxed," says Dr Hussaini.

She believes that 'Irani chai' grew out of the shared evening gatherings of her father and his friends and relatives. She attributes its distinctiveness to the brewing method and the use of pure milk and good tea powder. "They use a special kettle. The uniqueness of 'Irani chai' also stems from a prolonged brewing process. With Parsi diary milk and quality tea powder, it becomes the perfect brew," she says. While originally spice-free, modern versions incorporate saffron and cardamom for added flavour.

Dr Zahra Hussaini, who has two patents to her credit, runs a dental clinic in RT Nagar, and has a high-profile clientele, including cricketers.

Mohsin Ali Shirazi, a fifth-generation Iranian, identifies as Indian with Iranian ethnicity. About 200 years ago, his great-great-grandfather and his friends and relatives came by ship to India via Mangaluru as horse traders, supplying a Shiraz breed valued by the British. They sold their horses in Kunigal and then moved to different parts of India.

Rebab Al-Karimi's family is originally from Shiraz in southern Iran. Her great-great-grandfather Agha Aly Asker Shirazi came to Bengaluru in 1824 with his two brothers, bringing 300 Arab horses to sell to the British. Al-Karimi's mother, who is now in her 90s, wrote a book titled, 'Agha Aly Asker.'

MY FAVOURITE RECIPE

VELLAYAPPAM for the Easter feast

Sherly is all set to celebrate Easter with her son, Nikhil David Prakash (left), and husband, Jayaprakah Solomon, at their farm

Sherly Prakash

I belong to a small town near Kottayam in Kerala, where Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas are celebrated with a grand feast, featuring traditional dishes like appam and stew. Appam itself has several variations, and here I am sharing the recipe for vellayappam. This classic Kerala breakfast dish is prepared authentically with toddy, which has an especially delightful flavour.

As a child, I vividly recall my grandmother asking if I wanted to taste toddy, cautioning me not to mention it to my father. That very first sip felt like nectar. Naturally, the flavour of appam made with toddy far surpasses the version prepared with yeast.

Vellayappam is relatively easy to make, as it is cooked on a flat pan (tawa). The result is a thick, soft appam. Traditionally, it is enjoyed with chicken stew.

One of the most delightful surprises in my culinary journey was discovering an Indian restaurant in Fukuoka, Japan, serving vellayappam with a stew. I could easily imagine this dish appealing to the Japanese palate, as its gentle spice and mild flavour bear a resemblance to their ramen noodles.

INGREDIENTS

- Raw rice - 1.5 cups (soak for 6 hours)
- Poha (beaten rice) - 1/3 cup (soak in 1/3 cup water)
- Grated coconut - 1 cup
- Cumin seeds - 1/2 teaspoon
- Small onions - 3 to 4
- Garlic cloves - 2
- Sugar - 3/4 tbsp
- Yeast - 1/2 tsp
- Salt to taste

METHOD

1. Add half a cup of water to soaked raw rice and grind partially
2. Add coconut, cumin, onions, garlic, and beaten rice; grind well (Batter should be thick)
3. Add sugar and yeast; grind briefly
4. Let the batter ferment for 6 to 8 hours
5. After fermentation, add salt and mix well

COOKING

1. Heat a dosa tawa, apply a few drops of oil, pour one ladle of batter (do not spread)
2. Cover with a lid and cook on a low flame

SERVING SUGGESTIONS

Serve with mutton, chicken, vegetable stew, or egg curry.

TIMES CITY

Acid burns to suicide survivors, govt hosp helps patients regain quality life

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Isha (name changed), an engineer in her early 20s, was living her best life in Mumbai after securing campus placement. When she eventually moved to Bengaluru, every small fight started to irritate her. One day, in the spur of the moment, she ended up drinking an acid-based toilet cleaner. The family managed to save her but what followed were complex medical procedures across hospitals.

Finally, doctors at Institute of Gastroenterology and Organ Transplant (IGOT), a public health institution, ended up constructing a new food pipe for her.

Doctors at this institute now face the unique challenge of helping suicide survivors regain their normal lives after they ingested acid or rat poison.

According to Dr Nagesh NS, director of IGOT, the long-term impact of such attempts is often devastating. "Those who ingest acid are left with a burnt oesophagus, damaging their food pipe, voice box or even the stomach. Those who ingest rat poison are left with severe liver damage," he said.

For patients who consume acid and suffer extensive internal injuries, IGOT performs a complex reconstructive surgery known as oesophagocoloplasty. "In this procedure, we construct a food pipe in the throat using a portion of the colon, which is then connected to the stomach. It is a complex procedure, and the course of treatment is around six months," Dr Nagesh said.

While the surgery and associated treatment, including prolonged hospitalisation, can cost anywhere between Rs 10–15 lakh in private hospitals, the procedure is performed free of cost at IGOT. Between 2022 and 2025, the hospital carried out 29 such surgeries.

Dr Nagesh said, "A large share of the survivors who come to us are from weaker socioeconomic backgrounds. Most of them are males and are often troubled by substance abuse or financial woes." He also pointed to a striking pattern he observed among survivors. In cases where patients are forced to choose between preserving their ability to eat and speak, "they invariably choose food," he said.

Isha, a survivor, seconds this opinion. "While till date she has not told us why exactly she attempted to take her life, she has since mentioned multiple times that she regrets taking that step, especially when she sees friends getting married or moving out and about," her family said. However, today, despite her struggle with health, Isha earns a salary of Rs 1 lakh a month at her new job and is on the track of normalcy.

PLASMA EXCHANGE

Patients who ingest rat poison are treated with PLEX (plasma exchange) therapy, a process in which the patient's blood is filtered to remove harmful toxins, antibodies or inflammatory proteins from the plasma. The discarded plasma is replaced with albumin or saline before the cleaned blood is returned to the body.

"We conduct about 60 cycles every month, and 20 patients undergo around three sessions on average at a nominal rate. In private hospitals, this would cost Rs 20,000–30,000 per session. It is like dialysis for the liver," Dr Nagesh NS, director of IGOT, said.

IGOT has conducted 42 free liver transplants, performed over 5,800 surgeries, 39,000 endoscopic procedures and treated 1,653 major cancer cases since its inauguration in Oct 2021.

Syed Asif

From 2022 to 2025, IGOT has carried out 29 reconstructive surgeries for patients who consumed acid and suffered extensive internal injuries

House burgled as woman goes for yoga class

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Miscreants broke into the house of a 73-year-old woman in BEML Layout and escaped with gold ornaments and cash worth over Rs 13 lakh while she was attending yoga class. On returning home, she found the front door ajar and valuables missing.

Her daughter told police the incident occurred between 4.25pm and 6pm on March 31. The senior citizen, who lives alone, stepped out for her routine evening yoga class on the nearby Ganesh Temple premises in Sharadha Colony. She locked the house at 4.25pm and returned from the class around 6pm.

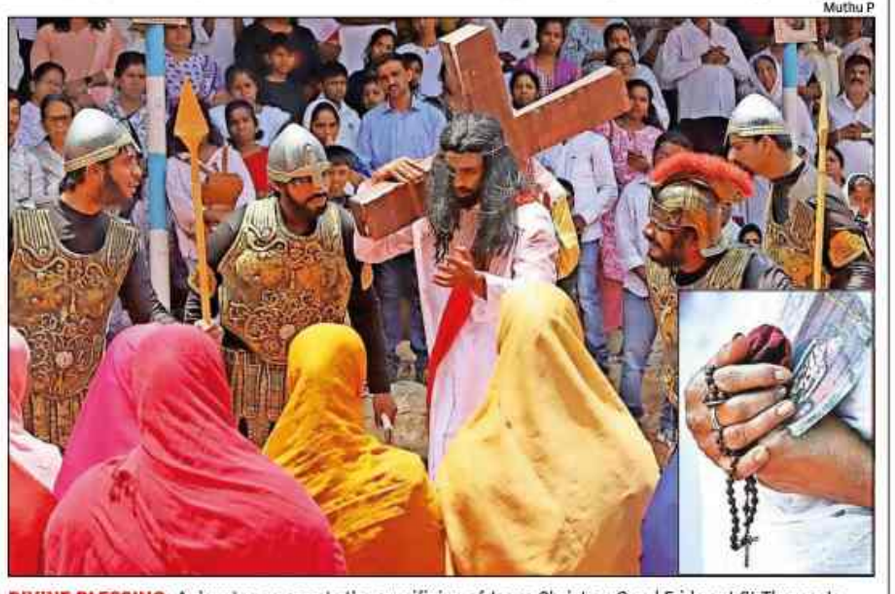
Pearl necklace worth ₹13L, ₹25,000 cash stolen

When she found the main door ajar, she checked inside to find 130 grams of gold ornaments — bangles, chains, rings — missing along with a pearl necklace worth Rs 13 lakh and Rs 25,000 in cash.

Police suspect the thieves were aware of the elderly woman's daily routine and took advantage of her absence to burgle the house.

DEVOTEES TAKE PART IN WAY OF THE CROSS

Muthu P



DIVINE BLESSING: A devotee re-enacts the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday at St Theresa's Church, JC Road, in Bengaluru. Hundreds gathered to observe the day and offered prayers

Venkatesh Prasad, Arjun Janya to get doctorates

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Cricketer Venkatesh Prasad, musician Arjun Janya and four others will receive honorary doctorates at the 5th annual convocation of Dr Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University Saturday.

BCU CONVOCATION

Over 37,390 students — 21,912 (58.6%) females and 15,458 (47.3%) males — will receive their degrees at the convocation. Twenty-three PhD scholars will also receive their doctorates.

As many as 29,886 students — 18,538 (commerce), 6,912 (education), 1,664 (science) and 2,772 (arts) — will receive their undergraduate degrees. Of the 7,484 postgraduate students, 4,811 are in commerce, 55 in education, 2,014 in science and 604 in arts.

Seventy-one students will receive rank certificates, 73 gold medals and cash prizes in this convocation.

Abhishek Sriram from Seshadripuram Institute of Commerce & Management, Seshadripuram, and Divyasree S from Krupanidhi College of Commerce and Management, Chikka Bellandur, will receive three gold medals for securing highest marks in bachelor of commerce and bachelor of business administration, respectively.

Among the other personalities who will get honorary doctorates are educationists TK Narayanappa, Mohan Alva and Bava Mohammed Farookh and sports administrator K Govindaraj. Some syndicate members have criticised the choice of candidates for honorary doctorates, pointing out that many have political affiliations.

Lecturer gets 4 gold medals

Sneha T from the department of chemistry

will receive the highest number of gold medals — four. Daughter of a rose farmer from Devanahalli and a homemaker, Sneha is currently a lecturer in BGS Science Academy and Research Centre. "When I took science in PU, I liked chemistry the best. I was fascinated by organic chemistry in particular," said Sneha, who plans to pursue a PhD in future.

Indulge in art & explore fitness tomorrow

Bengaluru: Happy Streets by **TOI** continues to bring the community together at Bhartiya City Sunday, April 5.

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

Residents can engage with Reclaim Constitution group, who will distribute copies of the Preamble. Prashree Art will host mandala art therapy sessions, while GlobalArt will guide children to explore their imagination through art and craft activities.

Fitness enthusiasts can take part in hands-on experiences with equipments like ropes, dumbbells and tyres by SK Fitness. NeeRav Arts Village will offer a chance to experience the mudgar, a traditional strength training tool.

A distinctive addition this week is The Postcrossing Welfare Society of India, which promotes postcard writing for participants to rediscover the charm of handwritten communication. With its varied activities, Happy Streets, presented by Bhima Jewellers, continues to offer a refreshing Sunday morning for all age groups. TNN

Farmer reaps ₹2L compensation after crop failure

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After quitting his job as a lecturer to take up farming, 31-year-old Nagesh M Bin's hopes of a bumper cucumber harvest were crushed. He blamed defective seeds and approached Bangalore Urban II Additional District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. The commission ruled in his favour by ordering the firm to pay him about Rs 2.2 lakh.

SEEDS OF TROUBLE

Nagesh, from Doddamaranahalli in Bengaluru South taluk, quit his job at his parents' insistence to take up agriculture. His family is fully dependent on farm income for its livelihood.

He decided to cultivate cucumbers on one acre of his land and approached Shri Gangadhareshwar Traders in Tavarekere, where the dealer recommended Suvarna Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd's F-1 Hybrid Shanthi cucumber. He bought five packets for Rs 1,750 on July 19, 2023, and sowed them the same day. At the same time, he also got two packets and sowed IVIZ seeds for Chitra cucumber.

Trouble surfaced early, with poor germination and stunted growth of Shanthi cucumber. The eventual yield was inferior in size, shape and colour. When Nagesh raised concerns, the dealer directed him to the producer. Company representatives visited the field, inspected his crop, took photographs and assured him the issue would be escalated.

A subsequent visit by another representative, accompanied by a person introduced as a scientist, led to assurances that compensation would be considered.

On Nov 9, 2023, another company representative contacted Nagesh and offered 50 seed packets worth Rs 15,000 as compensation. The same day, Nagesh filed a written complaint with the senior assistant director of horticulture, Bengaluru South, prompting an official inspection of the field.

Nagesh said he spent around Rs 1.1 lakh on cultivation, including land preparation, manure, labour, tractor rent, bed preparation, bamboo supports, irrigation materials, fertilisers and insecticides. Under normal conditions, he claimed, the crop would have yielded 33,000-38,000kg, fetching about Rs 3.2 lakh. Alleging defective seeds and deficiency in service, he approached the commission on Nov 29, 2023.

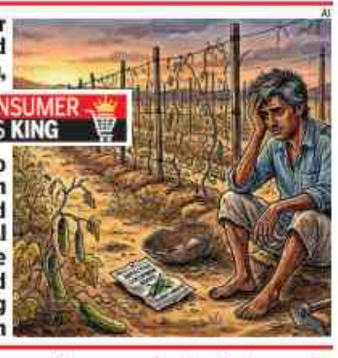
In its defence, the producer alleged poor agricultural practices led to the low yield. The producer also argued that no seed samples were submitted for scientific testing and that poor yield alone does not establish a defect. The company contended that the report did not conclusively prove inferior seeds and that inspection after over 70 days made findings unreliable.

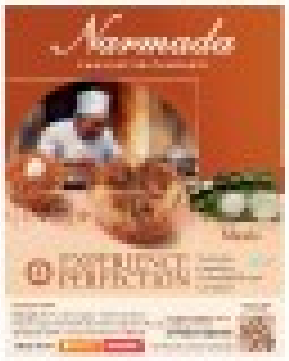
The commission relied on the horticulture department's spot inspection report. It noted that two varieties — Shanthi and Chitra — were grown under identical conditions, including drip irrigation and fertiliser use. While the Chitra crop yielded good produce, Shanthi variety showed poor germination, irregular shape, dark colour and low yield.

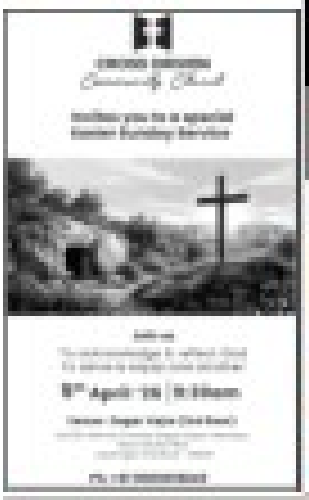
The commission acknowledged delays in inspection but held that evidence, including photographs and records, supported the farmer's claims. It observed the company too had failed to produce batch samples for verification. On March 3, 2026, the bench, comprising president Vijaykumar M Pawale and member Anuradha V, held the trader and manufacturer guilty of deficiency in service. It directed them to pay Rs 2 lakh as compensation, along with Rs 10,000 for mental agony and Rs 5,000 towards litigation costs.

Lecturer-turned farmer Nagesh said he spent around ₹1.1 lakh on cultivation, including land preparation, manure, labour, tractor rent, bed preparation, bamboo supports, irrigation materials, fertilisers and insecticides. Under normal conditions, he claimed, the crop would have yielded 33,000-38,000kg, fetching about ₹3.2 lakh

AI





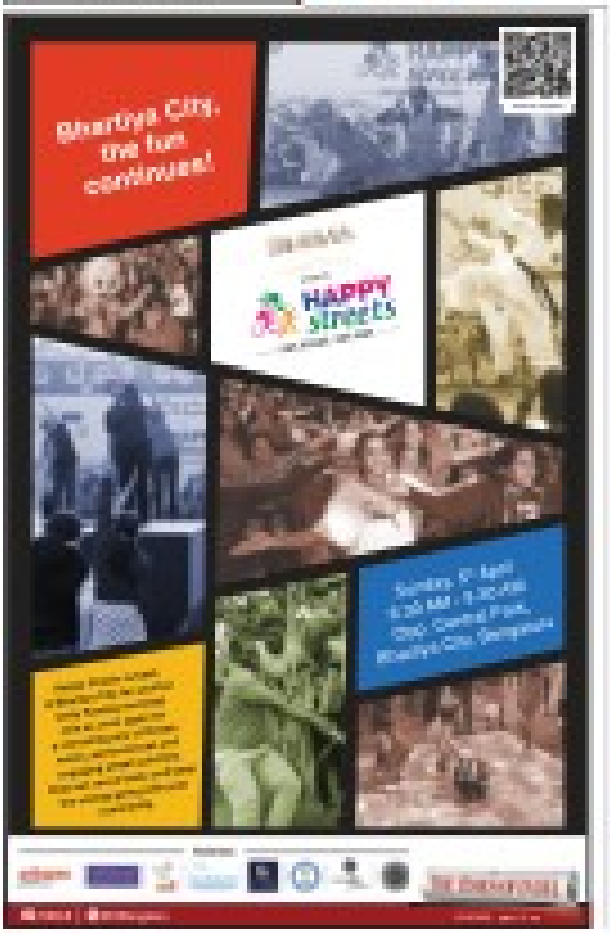


'It felt like cricket versus poetry, but we still had a full house'

In Town

A stable union? Does anyone know what that means anymore?

POV



It was an intimate night of art, conversations, and camaraderie

Euphoria: Rehab runaways loot auto driver for liquor, cigarettes

Duo Sells Auto For ₹5k Citing Emergency

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a chilling sequence of events, a 21-year-old youngster and his 17-year-old accomplice — both struggling with addiction to drugs, alcohol and cigarettes — allegedly escaped from a rehabilitation centre a month ago and went on to execute a robbery, driven by withdrawal symptoms.

The case came to light after auto driver Darshan CR, a resident of Rayasandra in Electronics City, filed a complaint with Bagalur cops on March 5. He told police that he had accepted a ride through an aggregator app on March 1 and picked up the two passengers — Kanish and the teenager — from Huskur for a drop near the back gate of Kempegowda International Airport. But the routine trip for Darshan soon took a sinister turn. Near Budigere Cross, the duo asked Darshan to change the route, claiming they needed to visit a friend's house. After wandering for hours, they told him to stop at a deserted place.

When Darshan demanded the fare of Rs 1,080, the suspects said a friend would pay. Sensing something amiss, Darshan insisted on the payment. While the teenager distracted him with small talk, Kanish allegedly struck Darshan on the head with a stone. He then repeatedly assaulted him, smashing four of his teeth. Later, the duo fled the scene with Rs 28,000 kept in the dashboard of the auto, two mobile phones and the auto itself, the complaint said.

A police team led by inspector Ashok tracked down Kanish at a rehabilitation centre near Harlur on March 25. During interrogation, he confessed that they had stolen a mobile phone from the rehab owner and used it to book the auto ride. With no money to pay, they decided to rob the driver.

Money spent on booze and cigarettes

Kanish drove the stolen auto to Malur in Kolar district and sold it for Rs 5,000, falsely claiming it belonged to his father, who, he said, was admitted to Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru. Supporting his claims, he even showed a patient's photo downloaded from the internet to the prospective buyer and claimed it was a medical emergency and promised to return with documents later.

The duo then spent the looted money and the proceeds from the sale on liquor and cigarettes, sleeping on roadsides and in under-construction buildings.

Police, using CCTV footage and digital tracking, found that Kanish had returned to the rehab centre, leading to his arrest. The teenager remains on the run.

Investigators revealed that Kanish, son of a businessman, had dropped out of college due to addiction. He told police the rehab centre did not allow him to smoke. His request for "at least one cigarette a day" was denied, triggering withdrawal symptoms that ultimately led to his escape. Police have since recovered the stolen auto.

They tracked Kanish's movements through the victim's mobile phones, which were linked to the aggregator app with GPS. He reportedly switched the devices on and off intermittently to evade detection.

YOUTHS STEAL REHAB OWNER'S PHONE

- Auto driver Darshan CR accepts a ride from Huskur to back gate of KIA through app
- During trip, two passengers, including a teenager, ask to change route and after wandering for hours, they ask driver to stop at deserted place
- Darshan demands trip fare of Rs 1,080
- One of the passengers, Kanish, assaults him, smashes teeth
- Duo then escapes with Rs 28,000, two mobile phones and autorickshaw
- Police track down Kanish at rehabilitation centre near Harlur
- He confesses the two stole mobile phone from rehab owner to book the ride and with no more money, they decided to rob the driver
- Kanish sells auto for Rs 5,000 in Kolar, claiming his father is admitted to hospital
- Duo spends money on liquor and cigarettes

ADGP: Police visits offer sense of security, help seniors run errands

▶ Contd from page 1

Manemanege Police (police visit to each house) initiative has helped us collect details about senior citizens living alone. All those aged 60 and above and living alone are covered under Aasare," Saleem said, noting his experience with similar initiatives in Udupi, Hassan and Mysuru.

Jurisdictional police frequently visit these seniors, assisting with doctor appointments, hospital visits, and fetching medicines.

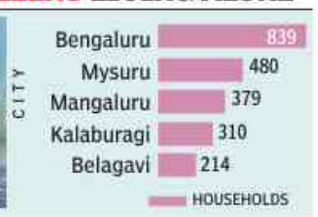
"Frequent police visits serve two purposes: they offer a sense of security and help seniors run errands, such as getting cooking gas cylinders or resolving issues with power connections," said ADGP (law and order) R Hitendra.

Challenges

Shivamogga SP B Nikhil highlighted difficulties in reaching remote villages inside dense forests. "Some elderly people have no mobile or landline. In such cases, we coordinate with neighbors to maintain communication," he further said.

Many seniors are initially uncomfortable with police visits. "To make them feel at ease, we are deploying more women police personnel to interact with them," Nikhil said.

SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING ALONE



Woman accuses cousin of morphing her pics

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 24-year-old private company employee received a shock when her cousin's wife sent her photographs on WhatsApp — the former's images morphed into nude and sexually explicit visuals using AI tools.

Pavani (name changed), from Basaveshwaranagar, filed a police complaint against her cousin Rahul (name changed), son of her paternal uncle.

After receiving the images on March 7, Pavani confronted Rahul's wife, who revealed that her husband had been secretly misusing her photographs to create AI-generated explicit content.

He allegedly created a fake Facebook account in the woman's name, posted the morphed images, made obscene comments on them and circulated them among unknown individuals via the Messenger app.

The matter took a wider dimension when Rahul's wife alleged he had engaged in similar acts using photographs of other women, including his colleagues.

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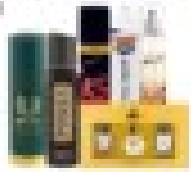

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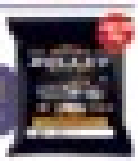

Aashirvaad Superior MP Wheat Atta 10 kg

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SMART Price

₹1092

Classic Sona Masuri Rice 26 kg

MRP ₹1800

Gokul Mirror Refined Sunflower Oil 1 L

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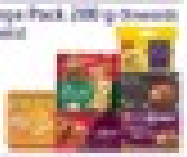

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Rabies goes wild: Sloth bear case flags possible zoonotic risk

Niranjan.Kaggere
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The recent surge in rabies cases across Karnataka has taken a new twist, with wildlife populations in close proximity to Bengaluru testing positive for the disease. In a sign of a serious zoonotic threat, a sloth bear rescued by villagers and forest staff near Channapatna in Bengaluru South district last week tested positive for rabies, revealing that what was common among stray dogs has even entered the wildlife population.

Even as forest officials cautioned injured villagers and staffers to undergo anti-rabies vaccination, veterinarians and conservation scientists termed the incident a "potential threat" requiring immediate intervention.

Sources in Bengaluru Forest Circle confirmed that the bear, rescued last Saturday, died at the rehabilitation facility in Bannerghatta the following day. "The bear exhibited restlessness and rabid behaviour in captivity and was found dead the very next day. A subsequent autopsy revealed rabies infection," a forest official explained.

Kumar Pushkar, principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), said, "The bear was frequently visiting human habitations and may have been bitten by stray dogs. Hence, all three injured persons have been vaccinated against rabies. Containing rabies outbreaks in the wild will be a challenging task as it is impossible to isolate wild populations. However, we will address the situation on a case-by-case basis by consulting veterinarians and experts."

Video screengrab

YOU READ IT IN TOI

Bear attacks youths & shreds their bike before locals trap it

Mar 29, 2026

WILD CROSSOVER: The sloth bear, rescued last Saturday, died the following day at the Bannerghatta rehab facility. It tested positive for rabies during autopsy

In the meantime, veterinarians and retired forest officials said the incidence of rabies in sloth bears is very rare. "Although there have been stray cases reported from central and north India, this is the first time I'm hearing of rabies in sloth bears in Karnataka. If the virus has entered the wild population, it is indeed an alarming situation and calls for major field action in collaboration with the animal husbandry department," said Braj Kishore Singh, former chief wildlife warden of Karnataka.

Dr Sumanth M Bedre, a veterinary surgeon, said, "Dogbites account for 99% of rabies infections, and this incident, though a very rare one, indicates possible frequent interactions between stray dogs and wildlife, which is very dangerous. Such exposure among wild populations could not only cause aggressive behaviour but also trigger a chain of conflict situations along forest fringes. Although an infected animal may die within 7-10 days, it could still transmit the infection to other animals. Forest officials must immediately undertake ring vaccination of stray dogs in the community and ensure complete sterilisation."

Sanjay Gubbi, a conservation scientist from Holematthi Nature Foundation, said, "In almost all conflict areas, the risk of disease transmission from pets and livestock to wildlife is increasing. Feral dogs are known to hunt and kill a wide range of wildlife. As a result, some carnivores tend to avoid areas heavily used by domestic dogs, leading to spatial displacement and altered habitat use... In addition, feral dogs interbreed with wild relatives, including jackals and wolves, resulting in genetic introgression and loss of genetic integrity. The forest department must put standard operating procedures in place to manage feral dogs in and around protected and forest areas."

Citizens aged 40+ to receive reading glasses

Bengaluru: State govt will provide free vision screening and reading glasses to citizens aged 40 and above across Karnataka to tackle presbyopia.

Presbyopia is an age-related condition that affects the ability to see nearby objects and is a leading cause of vision impairment globally, affecting an estimated 826 million people. Govt has partnered with Restoring Vision, a global non-profit, to roll out the programme, which will be implemented through Ayushman Arogya Mandir Sub-Centres (AAM-SCs), marking the first time presbyopia care is being integrated at the subcentre level in India, according to officials.

Pilot in Yadgir dist

In its initial phase, the initiative will be launched in Yadgir district, where around 1 lakh reading glasses will be distributed free to 216 govt health facilities, covering hospitals, community health centres, primary health centres and subcentres. The programme targets nearly 3.3 lakh residents aged over 40 in the district.

The initiative is based on recommendations of a team involving World Health Organisation (WHO) and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which assessed Karnataka's ASHA Kirana model in Oct 2025. The team recommended establishing sustainable presbyopia screening at the primary-care level, noting that over 30% of adults needing reading glasses lack access to them.

Under the programme, trained community health officers and auxiliary nurse midwives will screen individuals using standardised charts. Eligible beneficiaries will receive reading glasses on the spot, with data recorded through GOK Spectacle app. The initiative includes door-to-door screening by ASHA workers. TNN

ALMANAC (4.4.2023)

Meena Masa 21 – Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Vasantha Ritu – Tithi: Chaitra Krishna Dvitiya h. 10-10 Nakshatra: Svati h. 21-36 Yoga: Harshana h. 14-17. 15 Shawwal
Rahu Kalam 9am — 10.30am
— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

15% deviation plan leaves experts divided amid gaps in enforcement

'Building Bylaw Changes Could Redraw Legality'

Hamsaveni N & Sanjay Murty | TNN

Bengaluru: The proposed draft amendment to the city's building bylaws has triggered concerns that it could effectively legalise widespread construction violations. While Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) maintains that the move is not intended to mop up revenue, urban activists say the city's civic corporations will see increased collections through revised compounding fees.

The amendment to the 2003 bylaws proposes raising the permissible deviation limit from 5% to 15% across key parameters, including setbacks, floor area ratio (FAR), plot coverage, and building height. It also introduces a structured compounding fee system, allowing property owners to regularise such deviations by paying penalties and secure occupancy certificates (OCs) that were previously denied.

Despite widespread violations on the ground, civic authorities lack reliable data on the scale of the problem. Neither the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) nor GBA has conducted a comprehensive survey to identify buildings with violations. An official from the town planning department told **TOI**: "There are plans to digitise the issuance of notices to bring uniformity and maintain proper records, as the current manual system is inconsistent."

> There may be some increase in revenue through fees, but that is not the primary objective of this move. Given the standard plot sizes in Bengaluru, such as 30x40 or 40x60, a certain degree of deviation is inevitable. By allowing deviations up to 15%, more property owners are likely to come forward and bring their buildings within the legal framework. However, in many cases, the deviations exceed 15%, so it remains to be seen how much practical benefit this provision will offer
>
> **Maheshwar Rao** | CHIEF COMMISSIONER, GBA

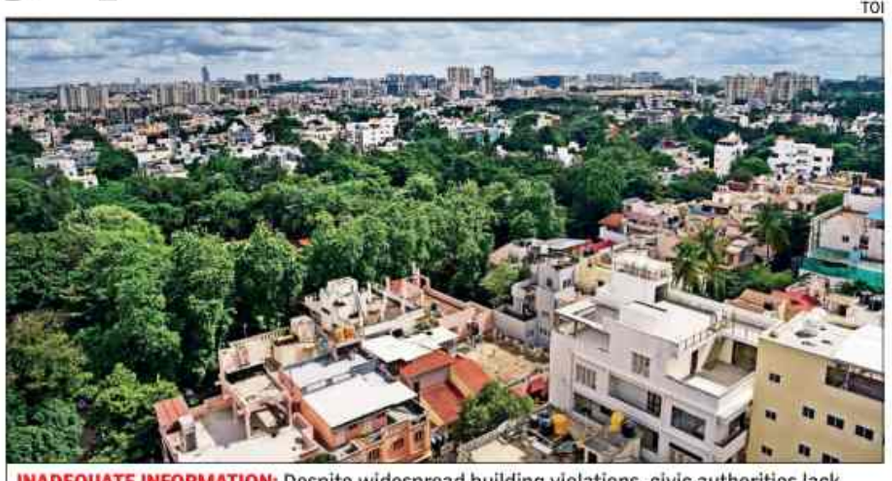
Planners flag problems

Urban planners have strongly opposed the proposal, warning that it may legitimise non-compliance instead of strengthening enforcement. One planner flagged legal concerns, cautioning that allowing up to 15% deviation could violate Supreme Court directives and revive elements of the controversial 'Akrama Sakrama' scheme. Critics argue that the draft undermines adherence to approved plans and bypasses the Metropolitan Planning Committee mandated under Article 243-ZE.

R Rajagopalan, convener of citizens' collective Bengaluru Coalition, said: "Institutionalising a 15% deviation without any scientific study amounts to covering up repeated failures in enforcement and monitoring of unauthorised constructions by GBA, in violation of multiple Supreme Court directives and the landmark 2024 order mandating OCs for essential services."

Pravalika Sarvadevabhatla, of Jana Urban Space, said, "Raising the deviation limit to 15% redraws the line of illegality instead of fixing enforcement. With only about 4% of buildings receiving OCs, the real issue is compliance. Setbacks and FAR are essential for safety, as seen in the Carlton Towers fire. Relaxing them increases risk."

TOI



INADEQUATE INFORMATION: Despite widespread building violations, civic authorities lack reliable data as neither BBMP nor GBA has conducted a comprehensive survey in the city

HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE IS OK?

For plots up to 500sqm
(Buildings below 15m in height, on plots up to 500sqm)
- Total setback area on all sides: **15%**
- **Side setback:** Up to 50% of required setback (linear), but below 15% deviation of total setback
- Coverage: **15%**
- FAR: **15%**
- Height: **7.5%**

Plots above 500sqm
(Buildings above or below 15m in height, on plots above 500sqm)
- Total setback area on all sides: **15%**
- Side setback: **15%** (linear)
- Coverage: **15%**
- FAR: **5%**
- Height: **7.5%**

* For plots which are not eligible for premium FAR, deviation of up to 15% in FAR is allowed

RATE OF COMPOUNDING FEE

Violation	Residential	Non-residential
Basement extension	7%	14%
Mezzanine floor area	9%	18%
Balcony excess (max 25% of total sanctioned)	7%	14%
Terrace (max 15% of total terrace area)	9%	18%
Other built-up area	5%	10%
Occupied without OC	0.15%	0.3%
No permission obtained (but within zonal regulations)	0.2%	0.4%

Source: Greater Bengaluru Authority

Planners and citizens say the move risks undermining safety norms & enforcement, while officials defend it as a pragmatic way to regularise widespread deviations, clear pending applications for OC, and generate funds from violators

Focus on pending OCs

Officials, however, defended the move as a practical solution to a long-standing issue. One of the five city corporation commissioners said the amendment aims to clear the large backlog of OCs while offering relief for minor violations.

"Most buildings in Bengaluru have some form of deviation. We cannot demolish all of them, nor do we have the capacity to do so. Allowing regularisation up to an additional 10% will benefit both property owners and the corporations," he said, while adding that the move could also serve as a mechanism to mobilise funds. "On average, the corporation could earn up to Rs 3 lakh from each building that is yet to obtain OC."

Norms issued for pvt hosps to report child sexual abuse cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The health department has issued a fresh set of guidelines for private healthcare institutions to reinforce mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, particularly in cases of child pregnancy.

The directive highlights provisions of Section 19(1) of Pocso Act, which mandate that any person with knowledge or suspicion of an offence must report it to Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) or local police. Importantly, the order stresses that doctors are legally bound to report such cases even if the child or family is unwilling to file a complaint with authorities.

Healthcare providers have been instructed to ensure immediate care for survivors, maintain proper documentation of evidence, protect the child's privacy, and promptly inform law enforcement authorities. The guidelines emphasise the use of child helplines such as 1098 and call for stronger coordination between police, health departments and child welfare services.

Govt said while public health institutions have been reporting such cases stringently, private ones have often absolved themselves of responsibility by referring such cases to govt facilities. "When such cases come in, they are referred from one institution to another, causing distress to the child and family. While these rules have already been mandated by Pocso Act, we did not issue a circular specific to private hospitals. This has been done to prevent the assaulted child from running around the city and to ensure such cases are promptly reported by private hospitals as well. It is more of a precautionary measure," said Dr Vivek Dorai, state nodal officer for Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques programme.

The guidelines also warn that failure to report offences by persons in charge of institutions can attract an imprisonment of up to one year and/or a fine.

Santosh Hegde falls ill at event, better now

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Former Lokayukta Justice **N Santosh Hegde** collapsed during a public event in the city Friday and was rushed to hospital.

The 85-year-old former Supreme Court judge fell ill while attending a felicitation for former minister and state chief commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides PGR Sindhia, organised at Kondajji Basappa Auditorium on Palace Road.

Sources present at the event said Justice Hegde concluded a brief speech and was returning to his seat when he suddenly collapsed. Assembly speaker UT Khader, who was also at the programme, said, "He (Justice Hegde) vomited while trying to sit and collapsed while trying to climb down from the stage. He was provided with first aid and rushed to hospital in my car as there was no ambulance available at the venue. We informed his family members, and they arrived at the hospital. He responded to treatment and was able to speak and respond to our gestures."

An official bulletin from Manipal Hospital said, "Justice Santosh Hegde is under medical supervision in emergency response at our hospital on Millers Road. He is doing fine and will be discharged in a few hours."

'Am at home now'

Later, Justice Hegde told **TOI** over phone that he is fine and recovering. "The doctors told me that I collapsed due to low blood pressure. I went for treatment earlier in the day and was prescribed some new medicines. They said it might have been because of that. I've been discharged and am at home now," he said.

K'taka adds 600 cardiac beds as heart disease burden rises

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: State govt has announced the addition of hundreds of cardiac care beds across multiple centres of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research (SJICSR), signalling the growing burden of heart disease in Karnataka.

Chief minister Siddaramaiah recently announced a new 100-bed Jayadeva facility on the premises of GBA multispecialty hospital in Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru.

The state budget also confirmed that the 300-bed Jayadeva Hospital in Hubballi would be inaugurated later this year. In addition, 200 beds will be added to the Jayadeva Hospital in Mysuru.

With these additions, a total of 600 new beds will be added to the existing capacity of 1,995 beds across Jayadeva centres in the state.

Currently, the main campus of Jayadeva Hospital in Bengaluru has 1,084 beds. Two satellite centres in the city function with 68 beds at the ESI Hospital in Rajajinagar and 72 beds at KC General Hospital in Malleswaram. Outside Bengaluru, the Mysuru centre has 400 beds, while the Kalaburagi one has 371 beds.

"The cardiac burden on the state is increasing day by day, fuelled by the rampant consumption of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances, and comorbid conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. Almost all of our beds are filled always. With such satellite centres, we can ensure the load at the main campus reduces and that patients get expert care within the golden hour in case of a cardiac emergency. The wait time for operations will also come down," said Dr B Dinesh, director of SJICSR.

"We are seeing more paediatric cases of 'hole in the heart' too. While some cases are genetic, others are a result of substance abuse and an unhealthy lifestyle during pregnancy, and the existence of comorbidities," he added.

Medical education minister Sharan Prakash Patil said, "We know the burden at the main campus in Bengaluru and now, the OPDs at our Mysuru and Kalaburagi centres are also overcrowded. With the addition of beds in Mysuru and the inauguration of the new hospital in Hubballi, we aim to ease this burden," he said, adding the govt is exploring establishing another satellite centre of Jayadeva Hospital in north Bengaluru.

Existing bed capacity
- Jayadeva main campus, Bengaluru: **1,084**
- Mysuru centre: **400**
- Kalaburagi centre: **371**
- ESI Hospital, Rajajinagar (satellite centre): **68**
- KC General Hospital, Malleswaram (satellite centre): **72**

Latest bed additions
- Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru (GBA multispecialty hospital): **100**
- Hubballi — new Jayadeva Hospital: **300**
- Mysuru centre expansion: **200**

Dr B Dinesh, director of SJICSR, said: While some cases are genetic, others are a result of substance abuse & unhealthy lifestyle... and the existence of comorbidities

OPD patient load (daily footfall)
- Main campus in Bengaluru: **1,900 to 2,000**
- KC General Hospital satellite centre: **300 to 400**
- ESI Hospital satellite centre: **150 to 200**
- Mysuru centre: **800 to 1,000**
- Kalaburagi centre: **400 to 500**

Source: SJICSR

Man found hanging from tree in park

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Cubbon Park walkers found a 35-year-old man hanging from a tree early Friday.

Based on an ID card found in his pocket, cops identified him as Suresh, a resident of Cubbonpet and native of Rajasthan. Police suspect he entered the park soon after security guards opened the gates for walkers between 6am and 6.30am, and hanged himself from the tree using a coir rope near the Ganesha temple close to Hudson Circle.

MORNING SHOCK

A senior police officer said Suresh was working in a mobile shop on SP Road and had lived in the city for the past 15 years. He did not leave any death note. Cops contacted Suresh's wife, who had gone to Rajasthan along with their three children a few days ago. She told police Suresh did not have any financial problems and hadn't shared information about any other issues he may have been facing.

If you are having suicidal thoughts or are in need of emotional support, call suicide-prevention helplines: Tele-MANAS helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAD DEMISE

Dr. BHASKAR K
M.Com, MBA, Ph.D.
14-09-1971- 03-04-2026
You Live Forever in our Hearts
You will be dearly missed by Central College Friends

OBITUARY

Smt. Sharadamma
(Thigalarapet)
W/o Late Dr.V.Ramadas
Birth: 12-01-1934
Death: 03-04-2026, Friday,
4.15 PM. Final respects: Saturday, 04.04.2026, 6:00 AM to 12:30 PM at her daughter's residence in Thigalarapet. Last rites: 3:00 PM at Double Road Electric Crematorium.
Deeply Mourned by
Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren
Mob: 9902297021 / 6362136641

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY

28th Death Anniversary

Smt.Gowramma
W/O Ramachandra Reddy
DOD : 04-04-1998
Mourned By.
R M Aruna
R Bhoopal Reddy.
Kavya B Reddy.
Thansh Reddy.
Dodda Abbaiah Reddy Family

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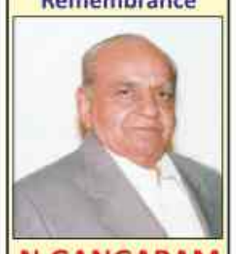
REMEMBRANCES

In Fond Remembrance



N.GANGARAM
17-11-1928 - 04-04-2007
"May you remain smiling as always, with a never-fading serenity and flourish in our hearts alike an immortal youth"
Family Members & Staff
GANGARAMS
03, Church Street, Bangalore 560001

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

In Fond Remembrance
Smt. S. Shantha Kumari
12 Oct 1940 - 04 April 2018
Remembering our dear mother with love that time cannot fade.
Though it's been eight years since you left us, your presence is still felt in every moment of our lives. You are deeply missed and in our hearts, you will live forever.
Fondly remembered by Sons & Family

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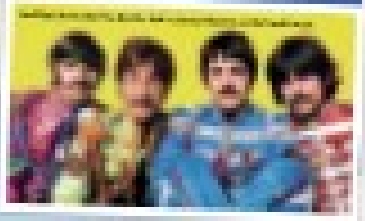
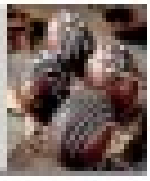
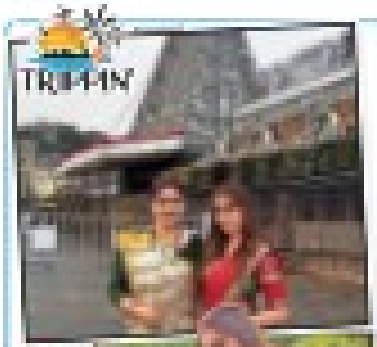
'There's more to Def Leppard than hits like Pour Some Sugar on Me'

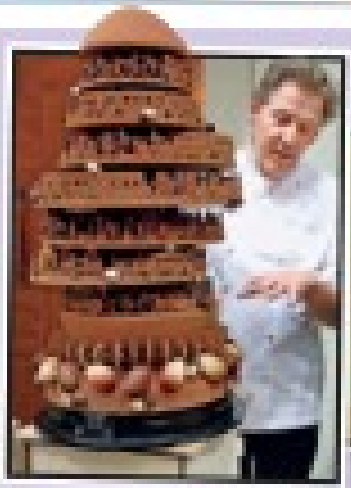
Transform everyday objects with chrome







Belgian chefs turn Easter eggs into art



Governance takes back seat as netas shift focus to bypolls

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Bengaluru: Governance in Karnataka has slowed significantly as the political executive shifts its attention to high-stakes bypolls in Bagalkot and Davanagere South, with ministers spending weeks on campaign duties.

All cabinet ministers, including CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, are engaged in electioneering. Congress has deployed around 20 ministers in Bagalkot and another 10 in Davanagere South, assigning them specific regions based on caste equations, financial influence and mobilisation strength, party insiders said. That is not all. To tighten its grip, the party has assigned two MLAs to each gram panchayat and two ministers to every zilla panchayat segment.

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

The campaign is being closely monitored by the top leadership, with Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camping in the constituencies for the past week, reviewing the strategy and leading outreach efforts.

The scale of deployment has raised concerns within the administration, with routine decision-making and project clearances seeing delays. Officials indicated that governance has taken a backseat as the ministers remain stationed in the constituencies rather than in Bengaluru.

"They (Congress) are scared as their internal assessment has given BJP an edge in both constituencies," said opposition leader in the legislative council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy.

The enforcement of the model code of conduct (MCC) has compounded the slowdown. MCC bars new policy decisions, delays approvals for development works and diverts administrative machinery to election management.

The April 9 bypolls, necessitated by the deaths of incumbent MLAs HY Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa, have turned into prestige contests for the governing Congress after internal assessments indicated a close fight.

Public works minister Satish Jarkiholi, a close aide of the chief minister, has been camping in Bagalkot for over two weeks, overseeing the campaign strategy for Congress candidate Umesh Meti. With less than a week to polling, the party has deployed over 40 MLAs and 20 ministers in the constituency to consolidate its vote base.

Bagalkot has around 2.8 lakh voters, split almost evenly between urban and rural areas. Women voters outnumber men and are expected to play a decisive role. The constituency includes about 70,000 Lingayats, 40,000 Kurubas, 35,000 Muslims, along with SC, ST and other communities. "So the party has accordingly chosen ministers from these communities to campaign and strategise," said a senior party functionary. Congress is also banking on the entry of Mallikarjun Charantimath, the younger brother of BJP candidate Veeranna Charantimath, who had secured around 10,000 votes as a rebel in 2023.

For Davanagere South, Congress has deployed a 10-member team of ministers and 30 senior MLAs to manage the campaign in what is considered a party stronghold. It has fielded Shivashankarappa's 27-year old grandson Samarth Mallikarjun.

His father and district incharge minister SS Mallikarjun is overseeing the overall coordination and managing his son's campaign. A panel constituted by KPCC president DK Shivakumar for the bypolls includes legislative council chief whip Saleem Ahmed, MLA Tanveer Sait, former MLC VR Sudarshan, and former ministers HM Revanna and H Anjaneya.

However, the continued absence of housing minister and prominent Muslim face BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has raised concerns within the party, with sources indicating he is likely to join the campaign in the coming days following a nudge from the party leadership in Delhi. Some ministers, including Shivakumar, Zameer and KJ George, have also been making on-and-off visits to Kerala to campaign for Congress candidates.

BJP claims Cong using money to win votes, CM rubbishes charge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Bagalkot: Allegations of cash distribution in rural areas dominated the political narrative ahead of the April 9 bypolls, with the opposition BJP Friday accusing Congress govt of circulating money to influence voters, a charge the governing party denied.

At BJP's Jagannath Bhavan office in Bengaluru, opposition leader in the legislative council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, said ground-level reports indicated cash ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh was being distributed in villages ahead of chief minister Siddaramaiah's visit.

He also claimed that sections of Muslims were shifting towards BJP after Congress denied a ticket to the community's candidate. Siddaramaiah denied the claims and said if there is any misuse of money or power, it is by BJP.

In Bagalkot, Union minister of state for railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna, campaigning for BJP candidate Veeranna Charantimath, claimed the Congress candidate would lose, and Siddaramaiah would remain in office for only one and a half months more.

BLESS ME! CM Siddaramaiah visits a temple at Muchakhandi village, Bagalkot, Friday

Hitting back, Siddaramaiah, who campaigned in Davanagere South for Samarth Shamanur, said: "Somanna is not the Congress high command to talk about the position of chief minister. BJP is unmatched in lying."

Reacting to BJP state president BY Vijayendra's remark that the bypoll results would impact his position, Siddaramaiah said, "Our party will win in both places, so how can it affect us? BJP is not our high command. But Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi are... They are speaking whatever comes to mind out of fear of losing in Bagalkot. They have brought back Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who was expelled from the party, for campaigning. This shows BJP is in a pathetic state in Karnataka."

Opposition leader in the legislative assembly, R Ashoka, campaigning in Davanagere, accused Siddaramaiah of misappropriating rice supplied by the Centre under the Anna Bhagya scheme and presenting it as a state initiative.

Kerala woman on Kodagu trek goes missing

Madikeri: A 36-year-old woman techie from Kerala has allegedly gone missing while trekking to Tadiyandamol, the highest peak in Karnataka's Kodagu district. The Kochi city native had travelled alone from Kerala and was staying at a homestay in Yavakapady village.

Police said **Sharanya** had booked a trek slot online and was sent with other tourists as a precautionary measure since wild elephants roam the area.

When she did not return Thursday evening, locals informed forest department staff. Later, forest officials, police and villagers searched the hill but could not locate her.

Kodagu SP Bindu Mani said the woman's family was being updated about search-related developments.

Five teams were formed to look for her, said deputy chief conservator of forests (Madikeri) Abhishek. Thadiyandamol is not a tough trail and one can return to the foothill easily without being lost, he added.

CS told to consult stakeholders

▶ Continued from page 1

Taking note of the objections, the governor directed the govt to examine the issue in detail, considering both academic and administrative aspects. The chief secretary has been told to consult the department of school education and other stakeholders before arriving at a final decision on this.

Various pro-Kannada organisations had earlier argued that Hindi was being imposed on students. Although Hindi is not the only third language available in the state, it remains the subject offered in most schools.

Association for Preservation of Local Languages said doing away with marks is likely to discourage students from taking Hindi as a subject seriously

"Third language plays an important role in promoting linguistic diversity, awareness and intellectual growth among students," the languages preservation group said, warning that doing away with marks may discourage students from taking the subject seriously.

Last month, state education minister Madhu Bangarappa had announced that Karnataka would adopt a grading system for the third language in SSLC exams. The subjects include Hindi, Kannada, English, Arabic, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, Tulu and Marathi.

Under the proposed new system, total marks for SSLC exams would be reduced from 625 to 525. "There will be no fail or pass for the third language paper. Only grades such as A, B, C or D would be awarded," the education minister had pointed out.

Man held for selling fake weight-loss powder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 56-year-old man from Delhi was arrested by Tumakuru police for allegedly running a sophisticated online operation selling counterfeit weight-loss powder and spurious ayurvedic products.

During investigation, police discovered the accused — Rajeev Khanna from Shalimar Bagh — and his sons — Himanshu Khanna and Manan Khanna — were filling wheat flour inside the branded packets of weight-loss powder. The sons are missing.

A businessman from Tumakuru, manufacturing the weight-loss powder, told police the accused were selling spurious materials by using her brand name. Accordingly, police raided Khanna's godown on March 27 and seized the products packed in different brand names.

"We produced Khanna before a court in Delhi and brought him to Tumakuru on transit warrant. He has been remanded in judicial custody," an investigating officer said.

War impact: Gulf job loss fears prompt demand for NRI secretariat in K'taka

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Bengaluru: With the United Nations projecting up to 30 lakh job losses in Gulf Cooperation Council countries stemming from the West Asia conflict, Karnataka is preparing for potential spillover effects, as nearly eight lakh non-resident Indians from the state are based in the region.

Dr Arathi Krishna, former deputy chairman, NRI Forum, govt of Karnataka, said a proposal has already been submitted. "During the initial phase of the war, the elderly, pregnant women and those with expiring visas attempted to leave the Gulf. We have repatriated about 550 people since the fighting began on Feb 28," Arathi said.

She said concerns have now shifted from immediate safety to job security. "The prolonged conflict is creating anxiety around employment. About 10 Kannadiga NRIs reached out to me in the past week," she said, adding that similar concerns are being reported from Kerala, where some expatriates may avoid travel even during elections.

CONFLICT ZONE: Hundreds of people returned to Karnataka as the war broke out in West Asia

Organisations representing non-resident Kannadigas have reiterated long-standing demands to chief minister Siddaramaiah and deputy CM DK Shivakumar. Key proposals include a dedicated secretariat, a separate department and a Rs 1,000-crore revolving fund to support returning NRIs and facilitate investments in Karnataka.

Ground-level signals from the Gulf point to stress building up across sectors. Hidayath Addoor, president, Bearys Chamber of Commerce and Industry UAE, said, "On the surface, business appears normal, but there are underlying fears. Salary cuts and both paid and unpaid leave are becoming common, especially in the services sector."

He said key sectors are already seeing a slowdown. "Tourism and logistics are among the worst affected. Typically, tourism picks up after Ramzan, but that momentum is missing. Real estate investment has also stalled," he said.

He said of the 48 lakh Indians in the UAE, around 3.3 lakh are Kannadigas. "About 30% are in business and 70% are salaried employees. Nearly half are in blue-collar roles across factories and services," he said.

Community networks have stepped in to manage the immediate fallout. "WhatsApp groups have been activated to provide counselling, medical support for the elderly and accommodation for those in transit," Addoor said, adding that a structured govt response is now essential.

Relief efforts so far include coordination of 630 flight tickets, over 230 accommodations and distribution of 1,180 food kits to affected Kannadigas.

Arathi said the proposal for a dedicated secretariat is with the chief minister. "He has assured that action will be taken as part of the supplementary budget," she said.

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Scan to know more
Available at all leading home appliance stores across the country.
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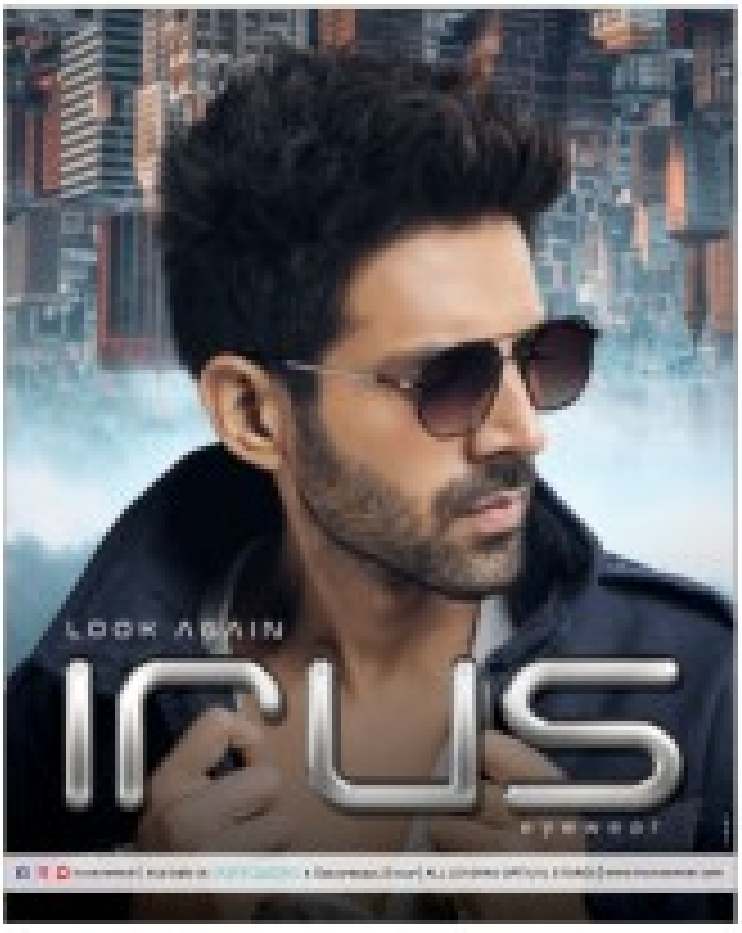
Too hot for K-food? Try cold Korean dishes



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real estate

FARM HOUSES

HILLTOP Farmland.. BALI THEME Buy 20 Cents (8720 sft) on 4000' Hill Top amidst forest Greenery.. near Denkanikottai @ 555/sft Cal: 9176054384 & visit

LAND FOR SALE

LANDS AVAILABLE FOR SALE
BIDADI, RAMANAGAR, CHANNAPATTANA, NELAMANGALA, DEVANAHALLI, DABASPETE, STRR Road, HOSAKOTE

EXTENT of 5 to 50 Acers suitable for Warehouse, Industrial, Villa plots, Farmhouse. Interested Contact : 9845 488 488

LAND FOR SALE
NEAR NAGAMANGALA
MANDYA DISTRICT
in&around 10Km Radius
NAGAMANGALA
5Acres Price 4Crs.
From Bangalore
120 to 130Km

5ACRES 10yrs Old Teakwood Trees attach to River Rs. 4Cr. & 2.17Acre Farm+ coconut Trees attach to SH 2.5cr 8971902816/9845033699

AGRLCULTURAL LAND Available on Mysore Road, In and Around Bidadi, Ramanagar, Channapatna, Clear Title. Contact- 9900115519

PLOTS FOR SALE

PLOTS FOR SALE @ MALUR
8404084041

LUXURY RESORT Villa Plots. 0 KMS from Chennai Xpress Highway, MPA approved. E-Katha, Ready for registration. 50+ amenities

PLOT for Sale BBMP 'A' Khata 9800 Sqft Pattanagere Mn Rd Nr Global Village Gate Suitable for PG, Warehouse And Factory Call: 9164987555

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

BANASHANKARI

BDA Plot For Sale 9Mx12M East Facing BSK 6th Stage 2nd Block 1st Allottee Direct Owner 2.1 CR Ready For Registration Genuine Buyers Ct: 99803 33100

WANTED-BDA-SITES IN BANASHANKARI 6TH STAGE/ ANJANAPURA IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT . CALL : 9343668888 / 9535575774.

WANTED Anjanapura Banashankari 6th Stage JP Nagar Near Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

WANTED BANASHANKARI 6th STAGE 30x40 ANY FACE, DIRECT REGISTRATION, SELLERS IMMEDIATELY CALL : MANOJ - 9731410616

BDA East facing site 30'x43.5' for sale in BSK 1st stage, Srinagar, Excellent location for price contact: 9845380312

BANASWADI

SALE Site 50X80 West Facing, Inside Manayata Tech Park, Banasawadi Price 23000/- Per Sqft Negotiable Good Loaction Contact: 93425 60839

BANNERGHATTA ROAD

SELLING/BUYING 50x80 40x60, 30x40 Resi/Commercial Properties HSR,BTM,JPN, JNR B'ghatta, BSK, B'gudi, KR.Rd BCMC,Narayan Ngr-7760019494

PLOT for Sale 60x39 PRIME Location Off Bannerghatta Road Bilekahalli Brokers Excuse Contact Naidu: 9844005311

BENSON TOWN

PENTHOUSE ready to move 4.5BHK, 5bathroom, 3balcony +terrace, 3500 Sqft, 5.5Cr @ Benson Town, 2km Cnngham, 8088330330 www.govianu.com

BTM LAYOUT

PRIME COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE
40X60 EAST FACING
BDA APPROVED A KHATA
BTM LAYOUT

FOR SALE 40X60 E/F Walking Distence to Outer Ring Road Perfect for Business, Rental Income Contact: 6364003399

CUNNINGHAM ROAD

4BHK 3Balcony, 1unit/ floor, 3200Sft High end Flats Govianu Cunningham, 100mtr frm Cunningham Rd, Last 1unit avlb. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

DEVANAHALLI

₹3750/-Sqft
DEVANAHALLI
SITES FOR SALE
BIAAPA
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS
9740589739 / 9731308328

DEVANAHALLI Approved Sites for sale near International Airport Size 2400, 4000sqft, 9740589739/ 97313083328

FARM HOUSE
21780 Sqft (½ Acre)
For SALE (Proposed)
₹1950/- Sqft
DEVANAHALLI
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS
9731308328 / 9743395619

FARM HOUSE with Compound wall, Gate, Plantation Etc. Near International Airport 9731308328/ 9743395619

½ Acre Convrt Land for Sale – Devanahalli. Clear titles, ideal location. Serious buyers call 9845226033

DEVANAHALLI GODREJ RESERVE PLOT FOR SALE 3000 SQFT. WEST FACING CONTACT-RAVINDRANTH - 9916686663

DOLLARS COLONY

3BHK, 2000 SQFT Luxury High end Flat for Sale, DOLLARS COLONY. For details Contact: 8088330330. www.govianu.com

ELECTRONIC CITY

WANTED
500 PG
Rooms/ 1BHKs
for 9-year
Rental For:
Pan-India
brand

IN ELECTRONIC City 1st Phase/ Near Software Offices Ready to Move in / Build-to-suit options. Call: 9980077897

HBR LAYOUT

HIGH RETURNS Property Enarch North West HBR(BDA) 5th Blk stilt + 3Bhk flats- 4 no's Newly built ready to occupy Nr Manyata tech park & Ring rd. Call : 98450-07163 / 99723-70494

HEBBAL

SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator avail able for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Serv ant Ph: 9880223669

3.5BHK SALE Luxury Flat, East Facing, Italian Marble, 2867 SFt, Veneer, Furnished, 2 Car Park, 7th Flr, Siroya Environ Apts, RT Nagar, Hebbal Con: 9341231209

HENNUR

HENNUR
30X50 SITES
FOR SALE 12500/Sqft
PROPERTY WORLD
BUILDER & DEVELOPERS
9731308328 / 9743395619

1200 & 1500Sqft BBMP Resi Sites for Sale 12500/Sqft Property World Builders & Developers. 9731308328/ 9743395619

READY TO-MOVE 4BHK VILLAS For Sale @ Chikkagubbi Off Hennur Main Road , With All Amenities. CT : 9743325550.

SITE for Sale 9300 sqft, North Facing, 10000/-psqft (Nego), Near Byrathi Suresh House, Doddaguddi Road, Prime location, 9448255072/ 9448492681

HOSUR ROAD

2BHK Flat with all amenities at Bangalore 560068. E Khata. Ready Documents. Price 70-80 lac. No Broker. Mob.7975141979

INDIRA NAGAR

SALE 3 BHK Resale old flat 2 units on 1st and 2nd floor 1,650 sft built up area approx. Quoted price for Each flat Rs.2.25Cr Contact: 9845209012

HOUSE Sale - 2400 sqft North facing Old house for sale in Indiranagar, Price 40k per sqft & 22000 sqft Site for joint development.: 9353666603.

RENT !! Defence Colony, Indiranagar Exclusive 5 Bedroom Bungalow with Swimming Pool & Terrace Garden Site Area: 7000 sft Built-up Area: 8,000 sft with 8 car parks. Call FEROZE'S: 9845018800

INFANTRY ROAD

Sale: Infantry Road 3 Bedroomed Spacious Flat 2500 Sft. Ideal for Office. Contact: "IRSHADS"- 98450-31500.

JAKKUR

SADHWANIS 4 BHK apartment for sale in Jakkur lake facing 16Cr. Excellent location location location.. Contact 9845070013

JAYANAGAR

JAYANAGAR 6th Block - Ready to Move Soon 2 BHK Flat is at Prime Residential Location for 1.20cr & 85 Lakhs. Contact : 9663233353

LUXURY Newly Built 3BHK Apartment for Sale in Jayanagar near South End Circle, 2200 to 2500 Sqft Each Flat. Ct: 9945265049/ 9738302049.

JP NAGAR

FOR SALE: New Grand Duplex House in JP Nagar 8th Phase, EF - 4 Flrs 3600 Sqft Built Up Area with Lift and 2 Car Parking + Rentals 45K, Price: 2.77 Cr. Call: 91489 45717.

FOR sale ultra luxury 1852 sq.ft, west facing flat , 100% Vaastu near Jayanagar 8th block 2.7 Cr + reg 8861999697

JUDICIAL LAYOUT

4BHK, 4000 Sqft Luxury high end flats, Judicial layout gkvk, ONE Floor ONE Unit 100% floor FLAT Sale: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

KANAKAPURA ROAD

APTMNT Sale 2BHK 1405Sqft Semi furn, Premier Gated Community, all Amenities, close to METRO Stn 1.18Crs Nego: 9845039097/ 8904777279

KENGERI

BBMP "A" KATHA SITES FOR SALE @KENGERI, 500 MTR FROM METRO STATION WITH CAUVERY WATER CL:9606342643 BROKER EXCL

KORAMANGALA

AVAILABLE FOR RENT
FULLY FURNISHED
70,000 SFT INDEPENDENT
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
with OC in Prime
KORAMANGALA.
Lift, Power Backup,
Ample Parking,
Plug-and-Play.

PERFECT FOR large corporates, tech companies, global capability centres, & institutional offices looking for a prestigious address. Direct Clients only, Brokers Excuse, Serious Enquiries,whats-App only: 87470 98848

FOR Sale Comm Buildings Budget upto 50 Cr and Resi 10,000 Sft property and also req comm plots and Buildings all over BLore M:81055-42424

COMMR-30X50 R'ntl Rturn Buildings.10.5/9/7CR. 80ft Rd 60x40/ 50x80, Resi-60x90 3rd Block. 30x40/ 60x40 5&6&7& 4th Block 20/ 30/ 50 Cr. 98452-89386.

KUMARA PARK

60'x75' FOR SALE
NEAR JAIN MANDIR
MADHAVNAGAR
KUMARA-PARK
APARTMENT BUILDERS
NRI's / INVESTORS
98450 54356 / 99800 77447

LANDS-PROPERTIES BUYERS & SELLERS CONTACT: RAGHAV @ BANGALORE ESTATES: 98450 54356 / 99800 77447

KUMARASWAMY LAYOUT

Kumaraswamy Lyt Sale 40x60 PG fully furnished 49 Rooms Single Tenent Rent 5L. Rs 8.75cr Nego. Call Shivu: 98800 04149.

MAGADI ROAD

3BHK, Luxury High End Flats Sale, Govindarajnagar Magadi Rd, Next to Royal Enfield shrw, OC received Last 2 units only. 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MALLESHWARAM

COMMERCIAL property available for sale near Sampige Road. East-facing plot, ideal for office. For inquiries, contact: +91 90197 03775.

MATHIKERE

1900SQFT, Luxury High-end Flat with swimming pool, club house, in HMT ROAD 60 Feet Road. Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

MG ROAD & AROUND

SADHWANIS 2BHK Apartment with car park for Sale at Lavelle Road, Excellent Location Location Location, Ready to Move. Rs.3Cr. Ct: 9845070013

SADHWANIS 3 BHK apartment for Sale off Magrath Road 4Cr. Excellent location location location Contact: 9845070013

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

SITES & Lux Apts with CC/ OC at Indiranagar, BTM, BSK Temple Rd, Hennur, Marathahalli, Soukya Road, Whitefield, Hoskote 9986090661 / 9036601934

MURGESHPALYA

WIND_TUNNEL_ROAD SALE Plot with Old House, 44.4x30 feet, A&E Katha, West, Good Location for House/ PG/ investment. M : 7022334447 / 48

NAGARBHAVI

3BHK FLAT for sale Near Nagarabhavi BDA Complex, Annapurneshari layout, 93 lakh. Call 9980941666, 9036905565

NAGAWARA

MANYATHA RESIDENCY
NAGWARA
PREMIUM BDA PLOT
45x60- 2700 Sqft.
FOR SALE
KP Realty
7899930039

@ RS.22K/SQFT. Park Facing Plot Available for Sale. Behind MANYATA TECH PARK. CONTACT KP REALTY – 7899930039

NANDIDURGA ROAD

2550 sqft
East Facing
Plot for Sale
@
Nandi Durga
Road
Jayamahal Extn.

46X55 EAST facing posh locality, Near Coffeday good for Residential, Villa or Bungalow. Call Prime Properties 9594985128

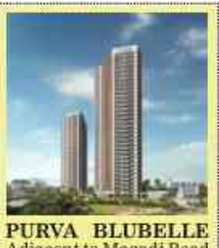
NELMANGALA

9000SQFT Commercial Vacant corner Site for Rent Nelamangala Town Sondekoppa Main Road. Call: Ravindrababu 80730 82929

OMBR LAYOUT

OMBR LYT 2BHK Flat for sale Ready to Move kitchen cabinet & Wardrobe vasthu E aasthi done. Near Sky line apt. 1 car parking 81.9L, Ph: 9632296279

RAJAJI NAGAR



PURVA BLUBELLE Adjacent to Magadi Road Metro station RAJAJINAGAR 3 BHK & Exclusive 5 BHK Flats + Servant Room with all luxurious Amenities, Only few units left for Sale Call Owner : 9844027560.

SALE
PRIME PROPERTY
Rajajinagar 1st Blk,
20th Main Rd, Blr-10
Site measuring
45x90:4050 Sq.Ft.

BDA ALLOTTED Property | West Facing | Approx. Built-up: 3800 Sq.Ft. | (Site Value Only) Located 350 m from Metro (6 mins walk) Clear Title. Serious buyers only Contact: 9886330265

3BHK, 2000 Sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, Rajajinagar main road near Navrang theatre. Phone 8088330330. www.govianu.com

RAJARAJESHWARI NAGAR

Grand villa style entryway to Vastu aligned apartment with a balinese inspired gardens.
3 BHK starts from 1.45 Cr*

PRIVATE VARANDA Space, RERA APPROVED, with 60+ Amenities. 800 meters to Silk Institute metro, Kanakapura road & Nice Road. Ct: 9743859000

30*40/ 60*40 Land Required for Joint Venture In Bangalore Call for Details +91 75340 90909

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FOR RAMAMURTHY NAGAR
SALE COMMERCIAL SPACE ON MAIN ROAD
Rs.8Cr (Nego)
Each Floor/2000 SFT
Total 6 Units

WITH RENTAL Income of Rs. 4 Lakhs, Suitable For Hospital, Clinc, Lab etc. Broker Excuse: 9844588678/ 9743533408

RICHMOND TOWN

FOR SALE
OFFICE BUILDING
@ RICHMOND TOWN
Built-up Area:
15000 Sq. Ft
KP REALTY
8095963647

INDIVIDUAL OFFICE Building for Sale. Plot area : 3700 sqft. Built-up Area: 15000 sqft. (G+4 Flr) Cont - KP Realty – 80959 63647

RMV EXTENSION

SALE 50x90 4/ 5 BHK 2 Houses with lift, 4 Carpark, North facing, 27 crores Negotiable, Near RMV Club, Brokers Excuse. Contact. 9845004307

READY-TO-MOVE-IN 2&3 BHK Flats at Nagashettyhalli, RMV 2nd Stage,OC OBTAINED Call: 63623 77418

Urgently Require Residential Site 4000/5000 Sft in RMV 2nd Stage (Close to RMV Club) Contact 'IRSHADS' 98458-41310/ 25591629.

SADASHIVA NAGAR

SADHWANIS 4BHK Apartment for sale in Sadashivnagar 10Cr Excellent location location location Contact 9845070013

SAHAKARA NAGAR

NEW FULL-APARTMT BLDG For Sale 7.50 Crs., 13,000 sqft - 9 Apt's (2 & 4 BHK's). Built-up on 2400 sft site, Ideal for Rentl. Incom. Service Apartments Corporate Guest House. 1.5 km from. Hebbal Flyover. Near SAHAKAR NAGAR. OWNER- 98900-53505.

SESHADRIPURAM

3BHK & 4BHK Luxury High-end Flats for Sale at Seshadripuram, 5min from Mantri Mall, Call: 8088330330, www.govianu.com

SHANTI NAGAR

FOR SALE
LUXURIOUS
3 BHK FLATS
SHANTHI NAGAR.
2 km from M.G Road
2 km from Cubbon Park
READY TO MOVE
@ Rs.9800/-Per Sqft
AMENITIES
Swimming Pool, Health Club, Parking, Community Hall, Jain Temple.
Bank Loan Available.
Call-9845000439

VARTHUR

VARTHUR - Commercial site - sale, (west face) 2660sft Halasalahalli & Vagdevi School Mn Rd, Nr Nirvigna Convention Centre. 9480035582

VIJAYA NAGAR

INDEPENDENT House 3BHK, 40*50/2000Sft, South East Corner, Near Sobha Hospital,Off Pategarpalya Main Road.99868 64000

VISVESWARAIAH LAYOUT

WANTED / AVAILABLE
20x30, 30x40,
40x60, 50x80
STIES @

VISVESWARAIAH Lyt BSK 6th Stg, Kempegowda Lyt, Nagarabhavi, ITI Lyt, Vidhanasouda Lyt. Immediate Registrn: 9845488488

WHITEFIELD

PRIME Residential Plot for sale Address - Krishvi Layout, Kundalahalli, near ITPL Whitefield. North East corner property Measuring - 61ft to North and 35ft to east - 2135 sqft. BBMP approved, Landmark - Close to Brigade tech park and Ryan international school are Walkable dist., Metro dist.- 5 Km, Price - 2200/Sqft neg., Call: Surendra shetty 9845568244, Shobha Kiran 9901009747.

YELAHANKA

YELAHANKA - South West Corner site 40*40, 25*40, 20*40 BBMP Limit E khatha, Behind Euro School, Kogilu Main Road, Rs.6250/- per Sqfeet, Mob : 9742834275, 9900789192

SALE : 3BHK,Ground floor at Renaissance Aero, Jakkur ,1,453 sq. ft., west-facing 1 Car Park. CALL 9448314766/ 8951457766

TENANTED Properties Immediate Rent Yielding Invest 1Cr Earn 65 K Per M, Invest 50L Earn 32.5 K/M, Invest 25 L Earn 16.25 K/M Ct: 95381 88399

YESHWANTHPUR

3BHK, 1500sqft Luxury High end Flat for Sale, OC received, in YESHWANTPUR, please Contact: 8088330330 www.govianu.com

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

FOR sale Independent Bunglow 2000 sft built up on BDA 4280 sft site, opp to Anjenya tmpl mahalakshmi layout...Bangalore.. 13 cr slight negotiations. Contact 7204453791.between 12 noon and 5 pm ..brokers excuse..

CORNER South East 40x72 site in gated community for sale near Karle township, Manyatha Tech Park, Hebbal. Contact owner 9845128550

FOR sale Running Hospital 25,000 Sqft in Bangalore South For more details contact-8073023848

OUTSIDE BANGALORE

CHIKMAGALUR

DUPLEX Villa with assured rental 1lakh per month for Sale part of 5 Star upcoming resort in Chikamagalur. Call 8088330330

MYSORE

3BHK High-end Luxury Flats, Govianu Gurikar Luxuria - Mysore, Zoo road, opposite to Gandhi park, Ready to occupy, 8088330330, www.govianu.com

TUMKUR

A) 15000SQFT TUDA approved site, Jaganathpura Tumkur B) 1200 SQFT TUDA site Belagumba Tumkur, near NH4. Call: 8088330330

TIMES interact SPECIAL

FOR SALE

Condensing Steam Turbine

Year of MFG	2006
Inlet pressure	65 ATA
Power	8 MW
Inlet Temp	485°C
RPM	7500

B K Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
Raipur (C.G) Call: 9329648000

FOR SALE

CUMMINS ENGINE & STAMFORD ALTERNATOR
500 KVA DG SET

B K Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.
Raipur (C.G) Call: 9329648000

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

KORAMANGALA
OFFICE SPACE
FOR RENT
10,000 Sq.ft

FULLY FURNISHED Office | 180 Seats | OC Building Fully AC • Lift • Power backup • Cafeteria • Car parking 98450 57375

FOR RENT NEWLY BUILT 4FLOORS COMMERCIAL SPACE
YESHWANTHPUR Area:1400/3000

SUI: FOR Office/ Any Clinical Laboratory with Lift Walkable Distance To METRO & Behind Taj Hotel. Contact: 9845021497

FOR RENT
JC ROAD
1st Cross Sgn
Layout
9980828090 / 9845017001

3000SQFT GROUND Flr And 2000 Sqft Mezzanine Flr Available For Rent @ JC Rd, 1st Cross Sgn Layout Bangalore-27

FOR RENT
PRIME OFFICE SPACE
HSR Sector-4
3500 Sqft
Fully Furnished
(Sound Proof Building)

2ND FLR All Amenities Ready Plug & Play, A/c, 40 workstation 3Cabins, One Conference,Car &2wheeler Parking. Call: 98453 93515

KORMANGALA 5th block Commercial building for Rent, 4 floors 10000 Sqft basement parking with lift 100 kv power, cauvery water and borewell. Rent 150 Rs Per Sqft slightly nego preferable single tenant. Contact, Pradeep 98450 59625

COMMERCIAL retail space sale at Sahakarnagar, tenant paying 2.5L per flr, 2500 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale at Yelahanka, with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3000 sqft luxury one floor one unit 100% flr office space sale 8088330330

COMMERCIAL retail space for sale with tenant paying 3L per flr, 3200sqft, Yeshwanthpur nr Kia showrm, one flr one unit 100% flr office space: 8088330330

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

FOR SALE
8000 sqft
KIADB Industrial
Plot with
Existing Building,
6000 sqft

100 KVA BESCOM Power & All KIADB Approvals. @ MTR Road, Bommasandra Jigani Link Road, Near Hebbagodi & Bommasandra Metro Station. Genuine Buyers Can Contact : 9036690352

FOR RENT / SALE
FULLY FURNISHED OFFICE 3rd Floor
ON OLD AIRPORT ROAD
VDB TOUCHDOWN
Next to HAL Museum
7447 Sqft
96 Workstations
3 Meeting Rooms
1 MD Cabin || 5 Cabins
1 Board || 1 Cafeteria
6 Car Parks
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WHATSAPP MESSAGE ONLY TO
98450 31550

Verna Developers
Barton Centre, MG Road
9620253180
Our Services
Tumkur and
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Urban / Rural

KIADB ALLOTTED Industrial land Buy / Sell, and pending work follow up of Allotment letter , PC , lease / Sale Agreement, Survey, Plan Sanction etc.

SALE Dabaspet, KIADB phase 2, 1 acre Land with 25000 sqft shed with crane, 125 KVA. Sale Deed Done. Call Srinivas 9342842978, 9880743366

LEASE & RENT

COMMERCIAL SPACE
GROUND & 1 ST FLOOR
7000 SQFT
FOR RENT

LOCATION: OPP Manyata Tech Park Sky Walk Contact 99809 90559/ 98807 69809/ 95351 05602

PROPERTY WANTED

WANTED COMMERCIAL SPACE 20,000 sft. for Rent/ Lease in Bankapur Chowk Road, Hubli and Electronic City, Bangalore. Ph: 90006 93366

30*40/ 60*40 Land Required for Joint Venture in Bangalore Call for Details +91 75340 90909

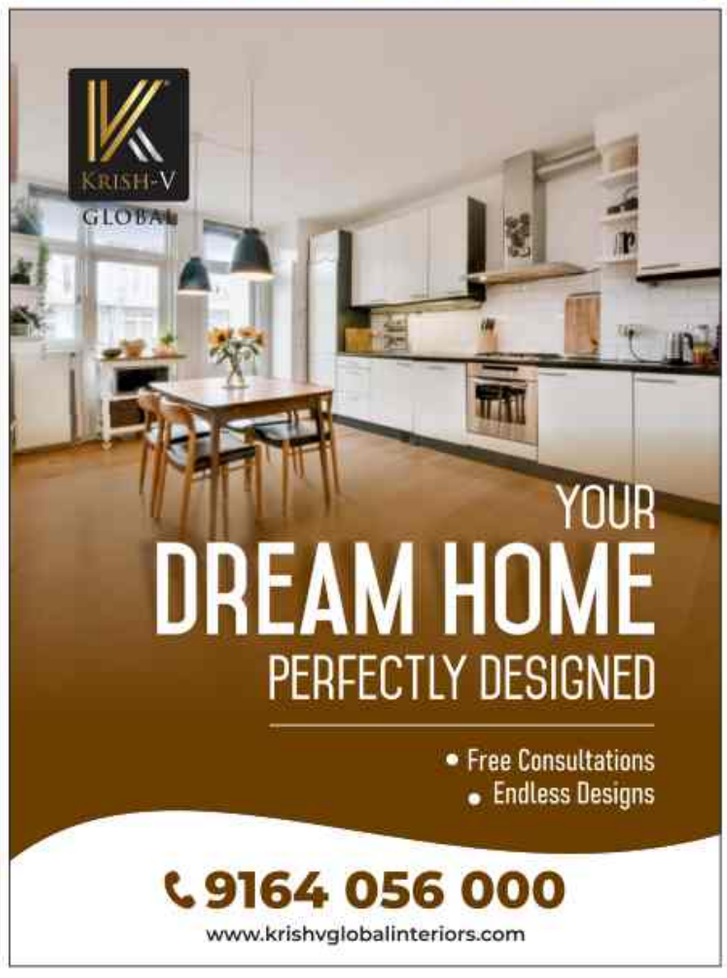
WAREHOUSES

REQUIRE WAREHOUSE on Rent: 15,000 to 25,000 Sft, with Side height of 12 to 15 mtrs. in Varthur, Whitefield, Mahadevapura, HSR, Bommasandra, Jigani & Sarjapur Rd. contact "Property Point" 99860-37215

TO-LET- 25000 SFT. Warehouse at Narsapura near Honda . Price 19/SFT or Revenue sharing. 25 Feet. 4 ' dock . 9 nos Dock CT 9108091740

More TIMES interact ads on subsequent pages...

GET NOTICED



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INDIA'S NO. 1 KAILASH EXPERT
WITH AN EXPERIENCE OF SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING
56 YATRAS & 56 PARIKRAMAS
(SERVING YATRIS SINCE 1998)
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FREE SEMINAR: 11TH APRIL, 2026
DETAILED ITINERARY EXPLANATION (WITH Q & A)
"Tour Manager Travels with you."
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CALL NOW TO BOOK YOUR SLOTS (ONLY 5 PEOPLE IN ONE SLOT).
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177/20, GROUND FLOOR 49TH CROSS, 3RD BLOCK RAJAJINAGAR BANGALORE - 560010.
HEAD OFFICE: MUMBAI
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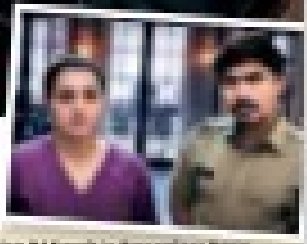
Being happy never goes out of style – Lilly Aldridge

I listen & learn, but I don't let it define me: Khushi Kapoor

Q My wife spends a lot with my parents, my sister, friends and family who don't say she is 'Khushi Kapoor the actor', but just Khushi

'I approach every role as if the character is a real person'

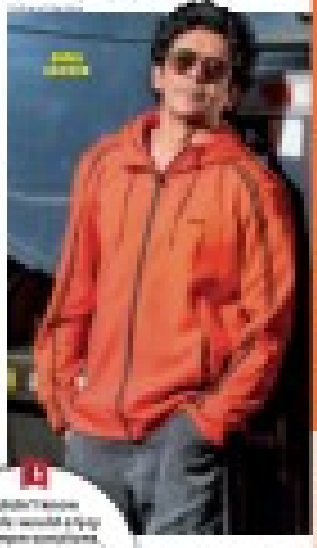
PARAMITHA THIRUVOTHU



Q Whether it's playing a fictional role or a real-life original, the challenge lends the same to you. I treat every character as a real person, giving each of the scenes dedicated time, energy, and a personal commitment

'Playing DJ Sarah in Bengaluru Days brought me to live more authentically'

'I am fascinated by the artiste, not his stardom'



Q I didn't know people would enjoy my expressions. There was a phase of Sunil and Mukhesh Sirkes time expressions are trending, and at one point, I was like do it and enjoy

'Presenting Colour could be a movie night lead to be done carefully'

'For me, impersonation is a tribute'

'Pregnancy felt like someone rewrote our script overnight'

'Pregnancy says I look very pregnant'

Q When you celebrate, you begin to discover each other in a very different light. There's a shift from what is spontaneous and to simply understood. Please share those moments of celebration and how you've nurtured each other's inner world before the headlines?

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

CONG'S 'VOTE THEFT' MOVEMENT RIGHT, BUT RAHUL, KHARGE SHOULD BACK CLAIMS WITH PROOF: PRAKASH AMBEDKAR

CELEBRATE AMBEDKAR'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY AS FESTIVAL OF HIS THOUGHTS: MAHARASHTRA CM FADNAVIS

Won't be cowed, says Raghav; AAP brass slams him for 'soft PR'

Ambika.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A day being removed as AAP deputy leader in Rajya Sabha, Raghav Chadha said he would not be cowed by attempts to silence him, drawing a fierce backlash from his colleagues.

AAP leaders accused Chadha of being scared of PM Narendra Modi and not raising the issues tied in with party's stand. They mentioned his failure to sign the opposition's notice seeking removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, and defying party line on walkouts over issues in the House.

Chadha was accused by Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann, leader of party in RS Sanjay Singh, and leader of opposition in Delhi Atishi of engaging in "soft PR" in Parliament and talking about samosas at airport canteens when bigger issues are at stake.

The slugfest started after Chadha, an RS MP from Punjab since 2022, put out a video post on X. "To those who have snatched my right to speak in Parliament I would like to say don't take my silence for defeat. I am that river which can turn into a devastating deluge when the time comes." He asked if speaking about the common man's problems in Parliament was a crime. " Now why would anyone want to stop me from speaking?," he asked and went on to list the diverse issues he has raised ranging from expensive food at airports, problems faced by food delivery riders to tax on the middle-class.

AAP members questioned Chadha's silence on LPG issue, vote manipulation in Bengal, and absence after arrest of Kejriwal.

AP govt employee raped at knifepoint, brutalised

Srikrishna.Kummara
@timesofindia.com

Vijayawada: A 32-year-old govt employee was brutally assaulted and raped by an unidentified man inside her home in Macherla town in Palandu district of Andhra Pradesh Thursday afternoon. The assailant raped her at knifepoint, beat her up and then inserted an iron rod into her private parts.

"Her condition is stable," Guntur GGH in-charge superintendent, Dr Srinivas Prasad, said.

Officials said the woman, who works as an attendant at a govt department, was separated from her husband and had shifted from Sattenapalli town last year. Her nephew lives with her, but had gone to Sattenapalli to spend time with his family after his Class X exams.

The survivor was alone at home when the assailant knocked on her door, asking for water. He tied her up with a scarf, gagged her, raped her and thrashed her severely. To save herself, the woman reportedly told him that she was suffering from an infectious disease. But, he continued the assault and inserted an iron rod into her private parts before running away, police said.

Her relatives found her unconscious after the nephew called them when she did not answer his calls.

Deadline looms, Bengal's deleted voters throng appeal offices

Sarthak.G@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Amid a short two-week window provided for filing a second round of appeal with designated tribunals against exclusion from electoral rolls post-SIR in Bengal, hundreds of voters flocked to govt offices to file their pleas in offline mode on Friday, only to be told that it was a govt holiday, and that officials were "busy with other tasks pertaining to upcoming assembly elections".

While supplementary lists are being published, the new anxiety among the voters is whether they will be able to file their appeals for consideration of the tribunal within the stipulated time.

Between March 24 and April 2, eight supplementary lists have been published and it is mentioned in each one that the excluded electors can file an appeal before the tribunal within 15 days of publication of the specific list. Although there is an option to file the appeal online through the ECI NET platform, a large number of deleted voters across the city are banking on the offline mode to reach out to the tribunals with their prayers.

EC issued 8 supplementary lists between March 24 & April 2, with voters getting 15 days since publication of their respective list to appeal before the tribunal

Dharmendra Singh from south Kolkata said: "I went to the Survey Building at Alipore today with to file my appeal, as directed by officials. But, I was first told that it could not be done because it was a govt holiday. As per my knowledge, EC work is supposed to be carried out even on holidays. When told about it, the officials claimed they were busy with other election-related work. I was asked to come on Saturday."

Like Singh, several other struck-off voters flagged concerns that almost a week had elapsed since their names were deleted, and they had only one week left to comply with the process to file appeals before tribunal appellate authority. "Who will take the responsibility if I miss the deadline to file my appeal, the last chance for me to get my voting right back?" asked Soma Das.

Kusum Dubey, a deleted voter from north Kolkata, said, "The building was open and some officials were also there. One of them asked me to get it done online, as they were too busy with other work. Officials asked me to come on Monday."

A 23-year-old's silent fight for voting right

For Sanu Hela, a deaf & mute youth whose name was deleted from the roll, cast his first vote in 2024 LS polls. He is shocked his voting right has been 'disabled' two years later. After being turned away by the office, he filed the appeal online, with others' help at a cyber cafe Friday. He is now praying the appellate authority considers his "silent" plea and restores his voting right. — Sarthak G

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States asked to curb fuel availability misinformation

To Prevent Black Marketing And Hoarding Of LPG Cylinders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt has directed all states to take measures to curb misinformation on the availability of petrol, diesel and gas, and to prevent black marketing and hoarding of LPG cylinders.

In a letter to the chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories late on Thursday, petroleum secretary Neeraj Mittal also emphasised the need for regular dissemination of information to assure citizens of adequate availability and smooth distribution of cooking gas cylinders.

"It is observed that rumours and misinformation continue to circulate in certain areas, leading to avoidable public concern and instances of panic buying... states/UT govts are requested to intensify proactive and regular public communication," Neeraj Mittal said, adding that only 17 states and UTs were conducting regular or intermittent press briefings.

Though the govt has maintained that there is no shortage of domestic LPG, there have been numerous reports of panic booking of refills

With the movement of Indian energy cargo impacted due to the military conflict in West Asia, India has prioritised the supply of LPG cylinders to domestic consumers over industrial and commercial users. Though the govt has maintained that there is no shortage of domestic LPG, there have been reports of panic booking of refills and long queues at distributors.

State-owned oil marketing companies IndianOil and Hindustan Petroleum also issued advisories on Friday asking citizens to beware of rumours and avoid panic purchase of fuels. Teams have been formed and action has been taken against LPG distributors following complaints of malpractices.

"The corporation is actively listening to concerns shared on its social media platforms and remains committed to addressing them promptly," IndianOil said in a press statement.

The govt has urged people to book LPG cylinders online and avoid visiting distributors unless necessary. Mittal also chaired a meeting with senior officers of the food and civil supplies departments of all states and UTs, and directed them to prioritise LPG distribution for domestic and essential needs.

Seventh Indian ship crosses SoH; vessel carrying Iranian oil reroutes to China

Dipak Dash & Atul Mthur | TNN

New Delhi: A seventh India-flagged LPG tanker, Green Sanvi, was crossing the Strait of Hormuz on Friday. So far six vessels carrying LPG have reached Indian ports after crossing the strait since the war.

Now 17 Indian ships remain stranded west of the Strait of Hormuz, including two — Green Asha and Jag Vikram — loaded with LPG. These two may soon head to India as well, people aware of the developments said. **TOI** on Thursday had reported that the three LPG carriers were currently drifting north-east of Abu Musa Island and they were following instructions from Navy and awaiting orders for transit through Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, a foreign vessel purportedly carrying Iranian oil to India has switched its destination mid-voyage and is now heading towards China. Sumit Ritolia, an analyst at global analytics firm Kpler, said such mid-voyage destination changes are not unprecedented with Iranian crude.

Govt confident of support for passage of women's quota bill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Unity among four of the biggest opposition parties could prove enough to torpedo the govt's bold move to get Parliament to reconvene on Apr 16 to receive legislative nod for rolling out women's reservation in 2029. But a robust cross-party support for the idea, reflected in almost a consensus favouring the original law in 2023, coupled with the increasing salience of women as a voting bloc has lent confidence to the NDA camp about the passage of its bills.

Opposition parties like Congress, TMC and the Left have kept away from govt's outreach to them questioning the motive of the govt in seeking the passage of the women's quota bill during the three-day special sitting starting April 16. But while they have questioned the "hurry", the opposition parties have refrained from disparaging the proposal.

"Let them oppose it," a senior govt functionary said when quizzed about some opposition parties' stand, underlining the calculation that the rival parties would be wary of the possibility of political damage if they chose to oppose the bill.

That the move to reconvene Parliament, a week before West Bengal assembly elections, a most prized state for BJP as it looks to end Trinamool's 15-year old rule, and Tamil Nadu go the polls is not without political import but the opposition's choices may be limited.

When the original law, called Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, to reserve one-third of seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies was passed in 2023, only two members from Muslim outfit AIMIM, opposed it in Lok Sabha and none in Rajya Sabha.

CBSE begins rollout of its 3-language plan

New Delhi: CBSE has rolled out its new curriculum, launching a phased implementation of three-language formula from Class 6 and a two-level system of maths and science for Class 9 starting in 2026-27 academic session, officials said on Friday.

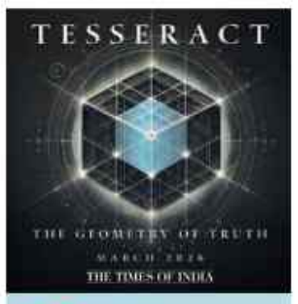
The three-language formula was mandated under new NEP. According to recommendations of new National Curriculum Framework, two languages must be native to India. "While it is desirable that the same scheme of languages is adopted, under exceptional circumstances for students returning from foreign schools where the third language studied till Class 8 or 9 is not available in domestic schools, such students may be exempted as per approved norms. But, such students will be required to study the total number of subjects as stipulated in the scheme of studies," an official added.

"All students will study the standard curriculum and appear for a common 80-mark exam of 3 hours; those opting for higher proficiency can choose an additional 'advanced' level in either or both subjects. This advanced component will consist of a separate 25-mark, one-hour paper designed to test higher-order thinking skills and deeper conceptual understanding. While advanced paper remains optional, performance in the advanced paper won't be added to overall aggregate; instead, students scoring 50% or above will have the advanced-level qualification reflected in their mark sheet," he said. PTI

NCERT now deemed-to-be univ, can give own degrees

New Delhi: National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been formally declared a deemed-to-be university empowering it to award its own degrees, officials said.

"The ministry of education, on the advice of the UGC, NCERT along with its six constituent units have been declared as deemed-to-be-University under distinct category," an official notification said. These constituent units include regional institutes of education in Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Mysuru and Shillong, along with the Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education in Bhopal. PTI



Tesseract is a marvellously crafted and wonderfully realised show that entertains and makes you think at the same time. It covers deeply philosophical themes while ensuring that you have a fun experience at the theatre. Shiamak has outdone himself and the performances are superb. Congrats to Meera and Samir Jain on conceptualising and backing such a spectacular show.

— Siddharth Roy Kapur
FILM PRODUCER

19 cases registered across Malda

▶ Continued from page 1

He was allegedly on the run since Wednesday's violence outside the Kaliachak-II block office in Malda. Islam's associate and fellow lawyer Ekramul Bagani was also taken into custody, taking the number of arrests in the case to 35.

Police said 19 cases had been registered across Malda, with Islam named in three. "Islam is the principal conspirator and instigator in the demonstration and roadblocks. While citizens have the right to protest, violence will not be tolerated. We are examining whether the incident was preplanned and if more individuals were involved," said K Jayaraman, IGP North Bengal.

Videos circulating on social media purportedly show Islam addressing a large gathering while standing atop a car and daring senior officials of the administration — the DM, SP and DIG — to come to the protest site and disperse the crowd. The protest, triggered by mass deletion of names from the voters' list after judicial adjudication, quickly turned violent as the mob blocked roads, vandalised vehicles and attacked police. Seven judicial officers were confined to the BDO office for eight hours and an eighth wasn't allowed to step out of a vehicle for the duration of the siege.

Moffakkerul Islam (centre) being taken to Bagdogra police station after his arrest

The mob hurled stones at the security contingent and put up bamboo barricades to obstruct reinforcements. Jayaraman acknowledged a delay in the rescue operation but contested allegations of dereliction of duty levelled by EC. "A large number of women and children were present, which limited the scope for immediate physical intervention. However, police personnel remained with the judicial officers to ensure their safety. CAPF personnel have since been deployed," he said.

Shortly after his arrest, Islam told reporters in Siliguri that the agitation would continue. "Demonstrations will go on until names of all deleted voters are restored in the electoral rolls," he said while being escorted to a police vehicle. In a video posted on Facebook while he was still at Bagdogra police station, Islam denied any role in the "hostage situation" in Kaliachak.

'Will happily borrow more money if it helps team'

▶ Continued from page 1

The girls repaid their coach by putting up a creditable show in the IWL qualification rounds last month, toppling the seasoned and more accomplished Odisha FC along the way.

DRFC finished their maiden IWL qualification campaign joint third in the pool, earning four points with a win and a draw.

"These girls had fire in their bellies but no resources," Param told **TOI** on returning from the tournament. "I couldn't watch their talents go waste. The loans were a small price to pay for securing their future in the sport." Raisen, placed in a tough pool, pulled off more than one upset, including the gritty 1-0 victory over Odisha FC. Forward Soni Munda, who scored the decisive goal in that victory, credits her coach with creating what she sees as a breakthrough for the team.

"Coach Param is our hero. We will never forget his dedication. We will return next year and try to lift the trophy for him," another DRFC player said.

Param remains unfazed by his debt burden, saying he will happily borrow more if it helps take the team forward. "I don't know how I will repay the loans," he said. "But I am not losing sleep over it," Param said.

'21 post-poll violence saw 1,970 plaints

▶ Continued from page 1

As per report of an inquiry conducted by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) into post-poll violence in West Bengal after the 2021 assembly election, the state DGP had reported 1,970 complaints of violence between May 2, 2021 and June 20, 2021. While 29 complaints related to murder, 12 involved sexual assault; 391 grievous hurt, 940 arson/vandalism and 562 criminal intimidation.

Only 1,168 complaints were converted into FIRs and 1,345 of the total 9,304 accused arrested. NHRC said "the spatio-temporal expanse of violent incidents... with little efforts of state machinery to prevent or control or rectify the same is actually a larger picture of organised violence by supporters of the ruling party in retribution against persons who dared to support the other major party..."

Though polls in Bengal shall be completed on May 6, that any post-poll violence has a direct correlation with elections, makes EC stakeholder, said a commission official.

Even after the winning party forms govt in Bengal, it may have to write to EC or the Union home ministry to withdraw the forces. The latter may turn to EC for clearance.

In yet another move on Thursday, EC took serious note of the deployment of 2,185 police personnel by the Bengal govt prior to announcement of polls for "providing security to 832 TMC personnel and 144 others including TMC supporters". It ordered the state DGP to conduct a strict professional review within two-three days.

UP woman loots jewellery shop with fake gun, held

Lucknow: A burqa-clad woman Thursday looted a jewellery shop in Ayodhya, threatening the man on the cash counter with a toy pistol and decamping with gold ornaments worth Rs 3.6 lakh with the help of her boyfriend, who was waiting outside on a motorcycle. On Friday, the duo, identified as Payal Kori, 21, and Rahul Kumar, 27 was arrested. TNN

INDIA DIGEST

12 of family get life for killing man over a goat

An additional sessions court in Kota, Rajasthan, Thursday awarded life sentences to 12 members of a family, including two women, for the murder of a 22-year-old man eight years ago following a dispute over a goat. All 12 convicts were sent to jail after the court pronounced the sentence. Istiyak Hussain alias Guddu sustained fatal injuries after being attacked with sharp weapons and sticks by his neighbours on Aug 31, 2018.

Jailed veteran Maoist dies in Ranchi hospital

Former CPI (Maoist) politburo member Prashant Bose alias Kishan Da alias Manish Da alias Budha, who was in jail since Nov 2021, died at Ranchi's Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) on Friday. He was 81. Police said Bose's position in the Maoist organisation was second only to general secretary Nambala Keshva Rao. He was the central point of coordination with different states. He also controlled and distributed funds, arms and ammunition for Maoists across Jharkhand.

Elephant herd crushes three in Jharkhand

A herd of five elephants trampled to death three persons in two separate incidents in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district Friday. The elephants first killed brick kiln workers Dheeraj Bhuiya (30) and Jagdev Bhuiya (32) while they were sleeping in a hut near Banda village. The herd then moved to nearby Murpa village and trampled to death Samdev Saw (73) who was collecting mahua flowers.

4 teen boys drown in river while making reels

Four teenage boys drowned in the Rapti river in Gorakhpur while shooting social media reels, police said. The incident occurred on Wednesday near the Mirzapur Ghat under the Khorabar area, where a group of nine boys went on bicycles.

MP assembly disqualifies Congress MLA at midnight

Bhopal: Within hours of a Delhi court sentencing Congress' Datia MLA Rajendra Bharti to 3 years in jail in a bank fraud case on Thursday, the Madhya Pradesh assembly secretariat hurriedly opened its office around midnight, issued a notification on his disqualification from the assembly and declared the seat vacant.

The opposition party termed the "midnight" move a "blatant violation of the democratic process". The court had put his sentence in abeyance for 60 days, allowing him to appeal the verdict.

Bharti had defeated then MP home minister and state political heavyweight Narottam Mishra of the governing BJP in the 2023 assembly polls.

While the state assembly's principal secretary, Arvind Sharma, cited the action in accordance with the Constitution's Article 191(1)(c), constitutional law experts told **TOI** the Speaker's decision was premature and apparently not in keeping with the law. "Prima facie, the Speaker's decision isn't right," said Rohi Arya, a retired judge of the MP high court. TNN

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I, Sowmya, W/o Mr.Vinchimur Ramanujam Venkatesan, Residing at Flat No.207, Pioneer Classic Apartments, No. 26, K R Garden Main Road, Murugeshpalya, Bengaluru 560017, Karnataka, declare that I have changed my name from Sowmya (Old Name) to Sowmya Desikan (New Name) for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 31/3/2026.
I, Saurabh Kale, S/o Vinayak Vasant Kale, R/o Pune, Maharashtra, have changed my name to Saurabh Vinayak Kale for all purposes.
I, Shruti Kumari, daughter of Awadhesh Kumar Verma, wife of Prateek Mishra, residing at 1301, Wing 12, Ahad Euphoria, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru - 560035, have changed my name to Shruti Mishra after marriage. Henceforth, I shall be known as Shruti Mishra for all purposes.
I Chintalapati Satya Vani D/o Baswaraju Ram Mohan Rao R/o 524, A Block, Srimitra Lifestyle Apartments, Kalkere Main Road, Horamavu, Bangalore changed my name from Baswaraju Satya Vani to Chintalapati Satya Vani for all future purposes.
I, Jibby George Thomas R/o No. 694 HBR Layout, Bangalore confirm that my name is wrongly spelt as Jibby Grorge Thomas in my Driving License. My correct name is Jibby George Thomas.
I Boosundra Thippeswamy Sumann S/O, Boosandar Shankarappa Thippeswamy R/o #66, Venkataswamy Layout, Priyanka Nagar, Seegehalli, Kr Puram Hobli, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560049 have changed my name to Boosandar Thippeswamy Sumann.
LOST & FOUND
NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that my client Mr. Ravikumar N has lost the Org Sale deed Doc No. 9464/1994-95, dated 07.03.1994 and 13th page of Sale deed Doc No. JPN-1-1868/21-22 for the property bearing BBMP Khata No. 136/21/4/12, Khata No.21/4B, HL No. 12, measuring 35x25=875sq ft, situated at Konanakunte, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, anyone finds contact-Law Globe-9964255277
Harivansh S Common THE TIMES OF INDIA
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North Eastern Railway
1st Corrigendum For Open Tender Notice No. N235-62Tele Tender03-2026
1st Corrigendum to Open Tender Notice The following modification/Change are made in open tender notice No. N235-62Tele Tender03-2026 dated 16.03.2026 of the work "Provision of IP-MPLS based network for Unified communication Backbone & VOIP based control communication system with associated LAN infrastructure at various stations of LJN, BSB, IZN Divisions & HQ Control Room over North Eastern Railway and TCP-IP based fire fighting System at Divisional Control Test Room & HQ Control Room. Provision of FXS media Gateways with associated LAN & OFC infrastructure for existing SIP Based IP Exchange in HQ Gorakhpur." Sl.No. 1. BID Security: 1,44,00,000/- (One Crore forty Four Lakh only) 2. GCC-2022 Advance Correction Slip No: 11-New Document Uploaded. 3. Pre-Bid Conference Dated 06.04.2026 time 11:00 Hrs. Revised link Document uploaded. Regarding respective Changes, Additional relevant information may be checked on the railway website www.ireps.gov.in
Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ Gorakhpur
CPRO/Sig-05
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No.Notification No. SWR-RSP-LC-37-38-ROB-07
Dated: 27.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.
Name of Work | Approx.Value
Hosapete -Harihar | Rs. 43,24,59,972.09/-
Section: - Construction of ROB in lieu of LC No.37 km.43/275 between Stations Hagarbommanhalli and Vyasa colony + Proposed Construction of RUB as RCC Box (Pre Cast Segmental) of Size 1x7.5 X 5.15m (Clear Height 5.0m) in lieu of LC No.38 at 43/795 between Vyasa Colony and Kottur Station of Hubballi Division. (Composite Work)
Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 15.00 hrs on 23.04.206
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer,Road Over Bridges, Hubballi
PUB/3/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/179/2026 dated 30.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.
Item of Work | Approx.Value
Construction of | Rs. 37,59,30,128/-
Road Over Bridge in lieu of LC no. 97 @ Km:121/600-700 as 1x36 m Composite Girder (Railway portion) + 3x18.71m PSC Girder (Kirangoor end) + 6x18.71m PSC Girder (Rampur end) + 3x28m PSC Girder (Rampur end) + RCC retaining wall (approach portion) and proposed Limited height subway at km:121/540 as 1x5x2.5m RCC box Between Panadavapura and Srirangapattana stations (Composite work). (Tender Ref. No. ROB-LC-97-PANP-S-R)
Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 15.00 hrs on 21.04.2026
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works, Bengaluru Cantonment
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3rd Floor, Khaniz Bhawan,Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
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(EOI) invited for setting up CNG/LNG Stations on the following models in Kota (Rajasthan), Gwalior (MP), Sheopur (MP) and Dausa (Rajasthan) Districts:
1. Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (DODO) Model
2. Full Dealer Owned Dealer Operated (Full DODO)
For details visit website :- https://rsgl.rajasthan.gov.in or https://rsgl.rajasthan.gov.in/Tenders.aspx
Last Date for Submission of EOI: 30.04.2026 (before 1700 hrs)

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NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM TRUST (NPS TRUST)
B-302, Tower-B, 3rd Floor, World Trade Center, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
NOTICE
Empanelment of Advocates/Law Firms to represent the National Pension System Trust before various Courts, Tribunals and Judicial Forums
Advt. No.:NPST/16/11/5/2024/LEGAL Date: 04.04.2026
National Pension System Trust invites applications for empanelment of Advocates/Law Firms to represent it before various Courts, Tribunals and Judicial/Quasi-Judicial Forums.
Eligibility criteria, terms & conditions, and application format are available on the official website: www.npstrust.org.in.
Last date to submit application for the above-mentioned post is 03.05.2026.
Scan the QR code to visit https://npstrust.org.in/tenders
Chief General Manager

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
2, 2/1 and 2/3,Kalidas Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – 560009.
Phone No. 080-2226 5383, Email : ceoem@kiadb.in, website : www.kiadb.in
No.KIADB/JDTP/FCN:35602/13/2026-27 Date: 02-04-2026
KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
KIADB has obtained Environment Clearance for development of Nagadiyath Kaval Industrial Area at Nagadiyath Kaval/ Tangali Kaval Village, Kasaba Hobli. Kaduru Taluk, Chikkamagaluru District in an extent of 236.95 Acres. The copy of EC available in the https://parivesh.nic.in PARIVESH Portal.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 02-04-2026
DIPR/CP/55/Zen/2026-27
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

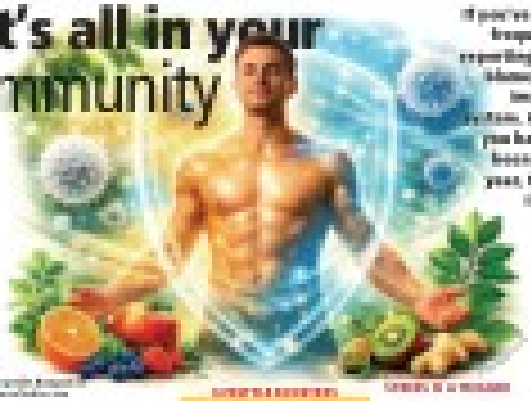
LIVE IT UP

Retail therapy: The mood enhancer

Sometimes, the fastest way to feel better is a new purchase. Retail therapy turns ordinary transactions into moments of comfort, intentional indulgence and happiness

It's all in your immunity

If you've been frequently reporting sick, blame your immune system, and if you haven't been ill all year, thank it, too



Your shopping gets experiential

In-store shopping stirs in engaged, live demos and in-person activities or exhibitions are sparking purchase decisions

Navy gets 3rd homegrown nuclear-powered submarine

Stealth Frigate, Large Cavitation Tunnel Facility Launched At Vizag

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

Stealth frigate INS Taragiri, the fourth warship of the Nilgiri class

New Delhi: In a big boost for India's "second-strike capability", the country's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, was commissioned into the Navy Friday, an official source confirmed to **TOI**.

The commissioning of the nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, part of the classified advanced technology vessel project, was not announced. However, sources confirmed that INS Aridhaman was launched at a Visakhapatnam event where defence minister Rajnath Singh and Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi were present.

A cryptic post on X by Rajnath Friday was being seen by many as the confirmation: "It's not a word, it's power, 'Aridhaman'!"

INS Aridhaman has a 7,000-tonne displacement (1,000 tonnes more than its predecessors) and is powered by an 83MW compact light water reactor. With 130m in length, the submarine has been designed for enhanced stealth and will boost India's nuclear triad. Equipped with eight vertical launch system tubes (compared to four in earlier models), INS Aridhaman is capable of carrying 24 K-15 Sagarika missiles (750km range) or eight K-4 missiles (3,500km range).

At Visakhapatnam, Rajnath also commissioned the indigenously developed 6,670-tonne stealth frigate, INS Taragiri, the fourth warship of the Nilgiri class. Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, INS Taragiri represents a generational leap over earlier designs, as it has a significantly reduced radar cross-section that allows it to operate with lethal stealth.

Rajnath also laid the foundation stone of a large cavitation tunnel facility at the naval science and technological lab of DRDO in Visakhapatnam. "It will serve as a foundational backbone for the design and development of submarines and ships, supporting advancements in naval engineering and maritime defence systems," he said.

Rajnath said, "95% of our trade happens through sea routes; energy security also relies on this route. Therefore, a strong navy is not an option but a basic necessity. The commissioning of INS Taragiri shows India's rising indigenous prowess and growing 'atmanirbharta' in the sector."

Raj HC revises epilogue in transgender quota ruling

Ajay Parmar &
Ashish Mehta | TNN

Jodhpur/Jaipur: Three days after passing a judgment while disposing of a petition challenging a 2023 state notification that classified transgender persons under the

OBC category without creating a distinct reservation framework for them, the Rajasthan high court has come up with a revision in the epilogue that was part of the order.

In a fresh order uploaded Thursday, the division bench of Justice Arun Monga and Justice Yogendra Kumar Purohit deleted three points in its epilogue, saying they had been included by mistake.

The bench was hearing an application filed by Ganga Kumari, a 29-year-old transgender, seeking clarification related to the epilogue mentioned in the March 30 judgment. The HC refused to delete the epilogue entirely but agreed that some paragraphs in it should not have been there.

"The court has clarified and ordered to remove some of the text, which court said came by mistake and was neither intended nor necessary," said Vivek Mathur, counsel for petitioner Kumari.

HC: Sudden dismissal from service violation of dignity

Sureshkumar.K
@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Madras high court observed that Cognizant Technologies Solutions India in Chennai violated the basic dignity of labour when it abruptly terminated the services of its employee and blocked his access ID card after he returned from leave to stop his entry into the office premises.

"Merely because corporate companies have a smart card access system, it cannot be used as a means of terminating the service of an employee. It breaches the right to fair working conditions and protections against employment guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that forms part of the Protection of Human Rights Act," Justice D Bharatha Chakravarthy said Friday.

The court made the observation while refusing to allow an appeal moved by Cognizant challenging an order passed by a labour appellate authority quashing illegal termination of an employee who served the company for 18 years.

The employee, KN Naresh, challenged termination of his services under the Tamil Nadu Shops and Establishment Act. On April 18, 2018, a show-cause notice was issued to him alleging that his performance level was low, amounting to misconduct. Naresh replied stating the charge was baseless and vindictive.

HC frees man jailed over unpaid alimony of ₹2.6L

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court has ordered the immediate release of a man sentenced to 22 months in civil prison by the family court in Jhansi for failing to pay maintenance to his wife. Tahir alias Babloo has been lodged in jail since Dec 3, 2025.

Granting him relief in an order passed on April 2, Justice Praveen Kumar Giri said there was no requirement for Tahir to furnish a bail bond or sureties as he was confined in civil prison, a facility where individuals are incarcerated for civil matters rather than criminal offences.

Tahir's wife filed an application seeking recovery of Rs 2,64,000 in unpaid maintenance for 22 months from Nov 2023 to Sept 2025. Subsequently, Tahir was arrested by the police and presented before the court, where he expressed inability to pay the amount, citing his poor financial condition. However, the family court sentenced him to a 22-month prison term.

Allahabad HC pulls up cops for missing honorifics for Union minister in FIR

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court sought an explanation from UP's additional chief secretary (home) for not using the honorific 'Hon'ble' before a Union minister's name in an FIR, questioning police's adherence to protocol.

A division bench of Justice JJ Munir and Justice Tarun Saxena passed the order on a petition filed by Harshit Sharma seeking the quashing of an FIR registered against him in Mathura. The HC noted that police should have shown protocol by adding the honorific to the minister's title in the FIR, even if the complainant didn't use it.

The HC, in its order dated March 31, observed: "The additional chief secretary, (home), govt of Uttar Pradesh, must explain on his affidavit why in the FIR the Hon'ble Union minister, whose name figures, has not been described with the usual honorific and at one point referred to just by his name without even using a basic prefix like Mr." The HC directed the registrar (compliance) to communicate the court order within 48 hours to the additional chief secretary (home) and the SSP of Mathura.

The court was dealing with a plea seeking quashing of an FIR alleging criminal intimidation and criminal breach of trust.

Top court: Gravity of misconduct had to be measured with nature of misconduct

▸ Continued from page 1

The co-delinquents, having limited powers and authority, could not have been equated with the respondent," it said. "The gravity of the misconduct necessarily had to be measured with the nature of the misconduct. Thus, grant of the benefit of parity to the respondent by the high court merely because the co-delinquents were given lighter punishment was entirely misconceived," it said, while restoring the differential punishments.

The bench further said that courts should exercise restraint while interfering with the orders of punishment and observed that normally, no court in exercise of its power of judicial review should interfere with an order of punishment imposed on a delinquent as a measure of disciplinary action by the competent authority.

"This is premised on the reason that the disciplinary authority is the best judge of the situation, and the requirements of maintaining discipline within the work force. While it is not the law that the courts should invariably stay at a distance when legality and/or propriety of a particular punishment is questioned, judicial scrutiny of the disciplinary action by way of punishment could arise only if the circumstances are such that no reasonable person would impose the punishment which is questioned and/or such punishment has the effect of shocking the conscience of the court.

To put in simpler words, interference could be warranted if it appeals to the court that the disciplinary authority has 'used a sledgehammer for cracking a nut'," it said.

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A thought for today

Keep silence for the most part, and speak only when you must, and then briefly

EPICTETUS

Silence!

Everybody should talk less, listen more. Even Trump

Trump's not a big reader. By some accounts he doesn't read at all, not even "one-page memos". It's likely he hasn't read this famous Lincoln quote: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out loud and remove all doubt." Fairly certain, in fact, after the way he dissed Macron on Wednesday, wading into the French first couple's private life. Macron, wisely, didn't turn it into a slanging match. But what he said – "Maybe you shouldn't be speaking every day…there is too much chatter" – is good universal advice.

We speak too much anyway. Although some cultures are more garrulous than others, a study across US, Australia, Serbia, and Switzerland found women averaged 13,349 words daily, and men 11,950. If you consider that the first Harry Potter book – *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* – has only 76,944 words, women would out-speak it in six days. And there are outliers who average 120,000 words a day – 7,500 each waking hour. Or, the whole *War & Peace* in five days. Know anyone who finished Tolstoy's classic in that short time? Trump started his War on Feb 28, and isn't any closer to Peace after 36 days.

There's much to be said for silence. It aids thinking, and absence of noise – those 13,000 words a day – heals the body. Buddha and Marcus Aurelius recommended it, highly. American philosopher Thoreau – Lincoln's contemporary – had only three chairs in his house: "one for solitude, two for friendship, three for society". He advised everyone to think, and rethink, before speaking. Since Trump's been talking guns and bombs of late, he'll hopefully get this: "The bullet of your thought must have overcome its lateral and ricochet motion, and fallen into its last and steady course, before it reaches the ear of the hearer."

Waka Waka, This Ain't

Fifa 2026 theme song bamboozles global fans

Football World Cups, the world's greatest sporting spectacles, don't just kick off matches, they ignite something primal – and joyous. Stadiums turn into roaring theatres, and the official theme song often becomes the heartbeat of that spectacle. Some linger far beyond the final whistle. Shakira's *Waka Waka*, from 2010, still sneaks into playlists, like an old friend who never overstayed their welcome, equal parts nostalgia, and rhythm.

So when FIFA unveiled *Lighter*, the track for 2026 World Cup, expectations were already humming. Instead, what arrived felt like someone switched channels mid-broadcast. Jelly Roll and Carin Leon's track drifts, strangely, into Bible Belt country rock, packed with imagery of devils, choirs, chains, and hardwood floors. Huh?! Football seems to have missed the team bus. Fans aren't just puzzled, they're the whole thing like a VAR decision gone rogue. Of course, World Cup anthems often carry local flavour. Pitbull and JLo's *We Are One* wrapped Brazil 2014 in samba beats, without losing sight of unity, and the game itself. That balance matters. *Lighter* feels like a musical detour with no stadium in sight.

But there's a lovely twist. While FIFA fumbles the aux cable, fans and teams are stepping in. France and Brazil have already dropped tracks that actually move like football. More will follow. Trump's America may be cohosting the Cup. But it's already got a yellow card before kickoff.

Power Struggles Of The Electric Kind

Modern life's defined by who pays how much for electricity

Who keeps the lights on? Who benefits from how electricity is governed? Who bears the cost? That's what ***Nikki Luke*** explores in ***Electric Life: Utility Regulation and the Fight for Energy Democracy***. High electricity bills increase cost of living, barring in wealthier neighbourhoods, where charges get automatically deducted from bank accounts – insignificant to overall expenses.

Who gets power – light and heating, run machinery, study and work – how much, when, and who pays the bill, pretty much defines people's everyday life. Yet, electricity is less treated as a public good, and more as a political tool, a commodity. Where, "corporate and state power collaborate to maintain privatised control of a vital public good".

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Luke writes about private utility company Georgia Power in Atlanta, among US's most unequal cities, where energy bills consume more than 10% of household budgets across low-income, racially diverse communities in suburbs.

She tracks electricity pricing, urbanisation, and how the private electricity provider entered people's "interior and intimate spaces of electric life", increasing efficiencies of labour in every manner. She contrasts it with user/customer campaigns that followed. These demanded, "a right to affordable energy as a basic need, in a call to democratise and decommodify electric life".

Luke's framework addresses the power grip – of regulated private utilities, govt/state public service commissions, business elites – behind the power grid. Urban environmentalism, and decarbonisation roadmaps for city planning, defined where "electricity capital" would be invested, but users/consumers, the paying public, had no say.

The book's core idea is that electricity governance serves capital, and prioritises entrenched business-political interests, over poor communities, and resident middle-classes, who are pushed to suburbs as urbanisation expands. With modernisation comes an increase in property values, "without measures to protect residents from rising rents, insurance, and property taxes".

Community-led campaigns, Luke writes, emphasise the gap – how can private utilities increase power rates when minimum wages are stagnant? As the book notes, large commercial users negotiated lower rates than residential customers. It's similar to charging higher per-unit rates to residential and small commercial set-ups, while offering subsidised rates to industry and agriculture. People cross-subsidise political interests.

The book calls for "decommodifying electricity to build a social wage". Luke argues that ordinary people, and not just govts or companies, must have real control over how energy is produced, distributed and priced.

To that end, energy democracy means that communities get a say in where energy comes from – whether coal or renewables like solar and wind – how it's run, and who benefits from it.

Energy democracy, Luke writes, is hard to imagine in the second Trump administration as state institutions are actively dismantled. Worse, Georgia Power warns of the "biggest surge in electricity demand" since air-conditioning. This demand is driven by data centres. Question is, should consumers bear the cost of building these "vast new fossil-fuel power capacity to meet that demand?"

The direct clash of such demand with environmental goals, makes it all the more important for contemporary "energy democracy organising" to draw from US's long history of environmental, labour, and consumer movements.

The people must seize this "time": defined by the transition to clean energy, and increasing electricity demand. The book has lessons for the public in every country, where electricity is a political tool.

On Reds, Kerala Sees Red

Victory for UDF in the state wouldn't so much be an endorsement of Cong-led alliance, as a message to Left, especially CPM. Communists have lost both their progressive and governance credentials

PK Yasser Arafath

Kerala's CPM-led LDF govt is leaving no stone unturned to retain power for a third time. Given strong anti-incumbency sentiments statewide, evident in the latest local body elections, Left, it appears, perceives the upcoming polls in, almost, existential terms. To recall, in the local polls, Left suffered significant setbacks in its traditional strongholds, such as Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Kollam, Palakkad, and Kannur, together accounting for 57 of Kerala assembly's 140 seats.

Fear that losing office may, gradually, erode organisational strength, patronage networks, political relevance, and corporate associations, has produced a palpable sense of urgency across rank and file. Alongside, there's a growing perception, within Kerala, that Left, particularly CPM, has lost touch with social reality and reliable grassroots feedback.

Results of the local polls suggested that Left alliance relied heavily on cyber-mediated discourse, and inflated perceptions of support on social media. It overlooked the fact that such signals are algorithm-driven – repetitive, manufacturable, amplifiable and, therefore, potentially delusional rather than socially grounded.

Prisoners of digital cave | Plato, in *The Republic*, illustrates the 'allegory of the cave' with a group of people chained by their necks and ankles to the inner wall of a cave. Unable to move or turn their heads, they see only the shadows reflected on the outer wall, and come to believe those one-dimensional projections to be the world's ultimate reality.

Incarcerated within this cave, these inmates live with great errors of perception and judgment. Such one-dimensionality, gradually, shapes their understanding of truth, producing a distorted consciousness that ultimately is harmful, to themselves, and to their collective understanding of reality. Kerala's Left leadership increasingly seems trapped in a similar unreality of cyber shadows, often strategising political discourse, based on mediated perceptions, rather than lived social experience.

One narrative that repeatedly emerges from this trap is *vikasanam* (development), without adequately addressing a more fundamental question: what does a Malayali seek in his or her everyday life?

Importance of sustained infrastructural development cannot be denied, but the two major religious minorities – Muslims and Christians – are asking for two basic things: a dignified and unalienated life, and a sense of safety.

Despite govt's claim that the state has witnessed no communal violence in the past decade, it can be argued that large sections of religious minorities have rarely experienced the deep sense of alienation they feel now, in any earlier period, marked by sporadic communal tensions.

Yet, Left govt is persuaded by the reassuring echoes of the Left digital cave, where its permanent inmates celebrate fragments of infrastructural development and welfare (*kshemam*) discourse, producing a powerful illusion: everything in the state is, fundamentally, in order.

In local polls, Kerala's voters' warning was clear – things are not functioning as they must. This is particularly so for police administration, and in education and health – the most visible manifestations of governance, where people encounter the state most frequently.

Pinarayi's failure, to discipline and reform police – home ministry is his portfolio – in ways that strengthen a broader sense of safety and social plurality, has electoral salience. Education ministry's credibility was hit after govt quietly signed on to implement Centre's PM SHRI scheme, which Left has publicly opposed, since inception. The health minister who succeeded KK Shailaja, has faced sustained criticism for repeatedly attributing cases of medical negligence to 'systemic failures', rather than her administrative responsibility, even as govt hospitals face shortages of doctors and equipment. These developments symbolise deeper governance deficits.

'Eclectic' Left? | A key reason Pinarayi's govt returned to power in 2021 for a second term was the everyday security it guaranteed, and its progressive positions on contentious issues such as Sabarimala temple.

Many Muslims and Christians, traditionally behind UDF, voted for Left, which, at the time, seemed to be a reassurance on questions of secularism, democratic anxieties, and minority-phobia. Perception was, Left remained holistically 'Left' – progressive, inclusive, anti-communal, and democratic.

The second term has seen this perception visibly eroded. Many feel Left has moved from being holistic to eclectic – selective, utilitarian, incoherent, majoritarian, and increasingly aura-centric. *Eclectic*, in this context, refers to a political manoeuvring, which selectively borrows pragmatic elements from non-Left ideological registers, including far right, privileging convenience over consistency, and diluting a coherent ethical, or programmatic, commitment to progressive principles.

These transformations became visible in LDF govt's shifting position on Sabarimala temple – from challenging customs to protecting them – and in continued political accommodation of figures such as Vellappalli Natesan, ousted secretary of Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam.

Despite his virulent communal rhetoric and repeated expressions of minorityphobia, Left leadership publicly projected him as a "true follower" of Sree Narayana Guru, a claim strongly contested and dismantled by followers of Guru's egalitarian legacy.

Poll paradox | Upshot: Is this election Kerala Left's battle for survival? Even though digital cave inmates seem to believe so, the more pervasive sentiment suggests something different – a need for Left to reclaim and recalibrate itself, by stepping outside the vicious cycle of political power for a corrective period. Such self-renewal is unlikely if LDF remains in office.

Notably, the current tide towards Congress/UDF is not necessarily driven by renewed affection. Rather, it is propelled by a growing resentment against Left for its departure from being holistically Left.

In that sense, any electoral shift appears less ideological conversion, and more, a democratic mechanism of course-correction. Paradoxically, Left's long-term survival may stand a better chance through a period of opposition, where it can regain ideological clarity and organisational vitality, rather than through continuation of power in its present form.

The writer is a historian and cultural critic, associate professor in Delhi University

Ladies And Gentlemen At The Races

Horses to fast cars, Ascot to Formula 1, speed continues to be an aphrodisiac. But the "men do, women decorate" era is over. Now it's more, "you drive, I'll drive, let's see who is faster"

Bikram Vohra

The racetrack, whether echoing with the thunder of hooves, or the scream of Formula 1 engines, has always been far more than a sporting arena. It is a stage where fashion, romance, and the intricate equation between men and women have been performed, contested, and redefined for over a century.

Pursuit of speed is an aphrodisiac. From Ascot's aristocratic paddocks to Monaco's glitzy grid, from the $12mn Dubai World Cup to the popular courses of Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, and Pune, it is a ballet of the sexes.

The real race was never about who got to the finish line first. It was always about who looked best getting there, who went home with whom, and how gracefully men and women navigated the ancient art of pretending they were there for the sport.

Back in the day, horse racing was the Sport of Kings. Which is a fancy way of saying rich people needed somewhere to go on Sunday, where they could wear ridiculous hats, and call it tradition. Ascot wasn't about horses. Those were just the excuse. The main event was the parade of people, who spent more on their morning suits, than most people spend on a car.

Women wore hats elaborate enough to need their own seating arrangements. Men wore top hats and tails, like they were personally auditioning for *Downton Abbey*. And everyone pretended this was perfectly normal behaviour, best illustrated by Eliza Doolittle, when she exhorted Dover the horse to move his bloomin' ass.

Then along came Formula 1, thank goodness. Suddenly fashion had permission to be fast, instead of stuffy. The pits stopped looking like a Rockwell painting, and started looking like a nightclub, which accidentally let the sun in. The drivers – bless them – decided that if you were going to risk your life driving in circles, you might as well do it in a leather jacket, rather than a tux.

Now, romance. In the old days, the racecourse was one of the few places where men and women could look at each other, without pretending they were discussing the weather. You also had the grandstands, the promenades, the unmistakable energy of money, champagne, and hooking up. A man would place a bet, turn to the lady beside him, and say something profound like, "I fancy the grey." And somehow, miraculously, that was considered

Image: AI

courtship. Whole relationships began over a losing ticket, and a shared sense of disappointment.

"Mine came last."

"My horse also flopped in the straight, come let me buy you a drink, and we can commiserate together."

Ice broken. New relationship swiftly established. Cupid snuggling in the saddle. It was much the same at Formula 1. Something about the smell of grease and the power roar of engines, conspiring to drown the inhibitions.

For generations, men did, women decorated. Men were jockeys, owners, drivers – sweaty, heroic, whiffing vaguely of leather and petrol fumes. Women were instructed to look stunning, stand near something expensive, and twinkle. The "grid girl" was an actual job description. Imagine that. You turn up, hold an umbrella, smile like this is your lifelong ambition, and everyone pretends it's a completely normal career path.

But here's the beautiful thing. Times change. Even racetracks. Women stopped being ornamental, started being decision-makers. They became team principals, engineers, drivers, commentators, owners. The grid girl, bless her perfectly applied lipstick, was gently retired to history books. And suddenly the conversation wasn't about who was wearing what hat, but about who had the fastest lap time, and the sharpest strategy, and did His Honour look like lasting the course as compared to the favourite, Happy Dancer.

And romance? It got an upgrade too. Now when a man and a woman meet at the track, it's not about him pretending to know about horseflesh, or her pretending to be fascinated by tire compounds. It's about two people who share a passion. Now, the man-woman equation has shifted from one of passive adornment vs active participation to a more complex, dynamic, and increasingly equal partnership.

So what has the racetrack taught us about fashion, romance, and the delicate dance between men and women? Fashion went from "look at my inherited wealth," to "look at my $1,000 racing jacket that makes me look like I might own a team." Romance went from public courtship under enormous hats, to genuine connection between people who genuinely love speed. And the equation between men and women? It went from "you stand there and look pretty while I drive," to "you drive, I'll drive, let's see who is faster. To the finish line."

And frankly, that's a much better race to watch.

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacredspace

Jesus is the King of Peace, who rejects war, whom no one can use to justify war. He does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war but rejects them.

Pope Leo XIV

When 'I am Exhausted' Means More Than Tiredness

Sivakumar Sundaram

Now that summer is here, when someone asks, 'How are you?', the answer comes almost by reflex: 'Exhausted.' We say it so casually that it has nearly become the season's standard greeting. Yet it is worth asking: what exactly are we exhausted from? Is the body tired? Is the mind worn down? Or is it a peculiar modern combination in which the body is still functioning, but the mind feels like a room in which too many switches have been left on, and the summer heat does not allow anything to cool down?

Exhaustion can come from a demanding day at work, an emotionally draining conversation, inadequate sleep, irregular meals, poor hydration in summer, delayed medication, or a mind preoccupied with anxiety, deadlines, comparisons, and incoherent thoughts. Sometimes even the food we eat contributes to the matter; too much spice, too much tadka or perhaps an annual appraisal call in April, when one's boss seems to remember only what went wrong, may leave a person feeling defeated psychologically and gastronomically!

Then there is what many working people experience as the second shift of life. One returns home, plans dinner, and begins preparing for the next day. Pending matters need attention before retiring for the night. It is important to understand the kind of exhaustion we are experiencing. Physical tiredness is one thing. Mental exhaustion is quite another. The first often asks for rest. The second asks for relief, clarity, and meaning. Curiously, physical exertion does not always drain us. A walk, a run, yog, swimming, or even a disciplined exercise routine can leave us feeling more alive than before. Blood circulates better. Sleep improves. Endorphins rise. A certain lightness returns.

By contrast, mental fatigue can deepen even while we sit in a chair and appear comfortable. There are days when one has barely moved and yet feels utterly spent. Why? Because the mind has been pulled in different directions. This is an important distinction: not all effort depletes us. Some effort energises us.

Think of a day when you worked intensely; your mind was engaged, and progress was visible. Such a day often leaves the spirit strangely nourished. Then think of another day when nothing felt coherent. Too many interruptions. Too little meaning. At the end of it, the fatigue is not merely physical; it is existential. One does not simply need sleep. One needs restoration.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The same principle applies at home. Household work can either drain us or dignify us. Much depends on the inner posture with which it is done. If every task is approached only as duty, drudgery, and obligation, then even small chores feel heavy. But when the same work is seen as an act of care, gratitude, love, and a contribution to one's family's well-being, something subtle changes. A mind in alignment generates energy even while working hard. That is perhaps why many of us, when we say, "I am exhausted," are not always reporting a lack of physical stamina. Often, we are expressing something deeper: that the day felt heavy, uninspiring, stressful, or emotionally overdrawn. We are carrying the psychological residue of the day into the night.

Once we understand this, our response can become wiser. If the body is tired, support it with sleep, nutrition, hydration, movement, and medical discipline. But if the mind is exhausted, the answer may not lie only in rest; it may lie in recovering rhythm, reducing inner clutter, and reconnecting with purpose. The body needs recovery, mind needs renewal and the spirit, perhaps, needs remembrance: life is not meant to feel like an endless carrying of weight.

Sometimes what exhausts us most is not what we did, but how far we felt from meaning while doing it. Sometimes the first step back to energy is not to do less, but to live with greater awareness of what truly nourishes us.

Care for cure

Cancer care is not definitely innovation alone; resilience, inner strength, and hope remain essential in the battle against the disease

Grounded palettes for modern homes

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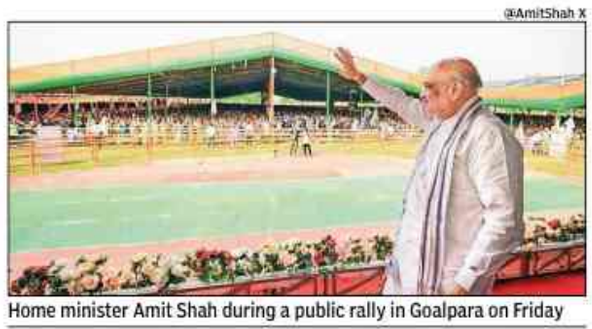
The new wedding playbook

As wedding seasons evolve, couples are transforming celebrations into unforgettable experiences

In Assam's tribal belt, Shah promises a cow and a buffalo for every household

Prabin.Kalita@timesofindia.com


@AmitShah X

Home minister Amit Shah during a public rally in Goalpara on Friday

Guwahati: Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday promised "a cow and a buffalo in every tribal household" in Assam, where he addressed rallies as part of BJP's campaign for the upcoming state assembly election.

Addressing a rally in Goalpara's Dudhnoi, Shah said PM Narendra Modi and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma have prepared a detailed plan for tribal uplift that would be implemented if BJP forms the govt for a third straight term. "Each tribal family will be given a cow and a buffalo, and we will establish dairy infrastructure in every district," he said.

BJP's manifesto also promises to provide 25 lakh poor families two milch cows each under the chief minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana. Shah described Goalpara as "Mini Assam," home to a host of tribes working in tea gardens, and declared that tribal areas will not come under the Uniform Civil Code, dismissing Congress claims as "rumours to scare tribals".

Later, at Palashbari, the union home minister accused Congress of trying to block the bill for setting up an IIM, but said BJP ensured its establishment.

Targeting the opposition, Shah accused Congress of turning Assam into a hub for infiltrators, promising that BJP will "send back each identified infiltrator" if given another five years. Highlighting accords signed with rebel outfits since 2019 and the surrender of over 10,000 rebel youths, Shah said BJP restored peace in Assam and warned that if Congress wins even a few seats in the April 9 polls, instability will return.

BATTLEGROUND ASSAM

NGT stays order to divert forest staff for poll duty

National Green Tribunal (NGT), in an interim order, stayed the Assam govt's directive to divert 1,600 Assam Forest Protection Force (AFPF) personnel to assist police during the assembly elections. The govt had instructed AFPF staff to report to additional director general of police by April 3.

BJP releases its TN list, Annamalai out of fray

New Delhi/Chennai: The BJP on Friday announced names of 27 candidates for the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, including Union minister L Murugan from the Avanashi seat and former Telangana governor Tamilisai Soundararajan from Mylapore, but its former state president K Annamalai is not in the poll fray.

The absence of Annamalai from BJP's only list of candidates comes amidst reports of differences over seat allocation.

"In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, they asked me to contest. Now, nobody has asked me to contest. I did not seek an opportunity, and I am carrying out the tasks assigned to me. If the party decides and asks me to contest, I will," Annamalai told reporters in Coimbatore last month.

Annamalai unsuccessfully contested from Aravakurichi in the 2021 Assembly election and also lost the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. When asked why Annamalai's name was not on the list of candidates, Union minister and BJP state election incharge Piyush Goyal said, "he is a dedicated soldier of the party, and he has desired to work across the state rather than being restricted to one constituency". PTI

Modi roadshow boosts NDA poll push in Puducherry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Puducherry: With just five days to go for polling in Puducherry, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a roadshow in the Union territory on Friday, consolidating support for NDA candidates and energising BJP cadres.

Though Modi chose not to deliver a speech, the roadshow gave a momentum to the final leg of the campaign in Puducherry which goes to polls on April 9.

In a vehicle decked with flowers, Modi passed through the arterial stretch of the coastal town waving at the public who had gathered on either side of the road. He was accompanied on the vehicle by AINRC founder and chief minister N Rangasamy and BJP leaders including home minister A Namassivayam, who had earlier received him at Puducherry airport. The roadshow started from Atithi signal and culminated at Raja Theatre signal.

BJP functionaries say even a small swing in vote share can influence the outcome in the 30-member assembly of the Union territory and the PM's visit would play a key role in swaying votes towards NDA.

Mamata credits Bengal CID for Malda unrest arrest

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Subhro Maitra | TNN

Kolkata/Malda: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee claimed credit on Friday for the arrest of the prime suspect in the violent unrest in Malda over voter-list deletions, saying that "our CID, not the EC-appointed police" took "decisive action" after Supreme Court ordered a crackdown on those behind the arson and eight-hour gherao of judicial officers last Wednesday.

Advocate Moffakkerul Islam, who was an AIMIM candidate in the 2021 Bengal elections, was arrested outside Siliguri's Bagdogra airport before he could take a flight to Bengaluru with an aide.

Mamata blamed AIMIM for the gherao, accused ISF of providing tactical support and slammed BJP and Congress for allegedly instigating the violence in Mothabari constituency. ISF's nominee for the seat, Maulana Shahjahan Ali, was arrested on Thursday along with 17 other suspects and remanded in police custody for 10 days.

"They (the arrested ex-AIMIM candidate) came from Mumbai. It was BJP that borrowed the accused from AIMIM and brought him here. ISF is also with them," the CM told a gathering in Malda's Harirampur.

THAROOR ON KERALA CAMPAIGN TRAIL

IANS

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor campaigns for UDF candidate from the Malappuram Assembly constituency P K Kunhalikutty (not seen in pic) ahead of the Kerala Assembly elections, in Malappuram, on Friday

Kanimozhi: No one who formed alliance with BJP ever had future

Dindigul: DMK MP **Kanimozhi Karunanidhi** on Friday said political parties aligning with the BJP face a bleak future, labelling the AIADMK's ties with the saffron party a "betrayal alliance" that deceives both the state and its own cadre. Campaigning in the Nilakottai Assembly constituency for DMK candidate Nagajyothi, Kanimozhi launched a scathing attack on AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami, accusing him of "heading a betrayal alliance" that has deceived the state and its own party cadre. "No one who formed an alliance with them (BJP) has ever had a future. Maybe, they will send you as a Governor to some state," she said.

The MP also criticised the AIADMK for its inconsistent stance on the CAA, saying while Palaniswami previously supported the act, he is now attempting to distance himself while remaining in a covert understanding with the BJP. PTI

Kiren Rijiju allays fear over FCRA amendments

Thiruvananthapuram: Reaching out to the Christian community on Good Friday, Union minister Kiren Rijiju who is in Kerala campaigning for the BJP said there was no cause for concern regarding the proposed FCRA amendments. The Union minority affairs minister held discussions with representatives of the various churches and Christian organisations in the state in the evening and said that they raised concerns with regard to cancellation of FCRA licenses.

The concerns raised by them were "genuine", Rijiju told reporters after the meeting. Rijiju said that no person or organisation working genuinely for the welfare of the people will be penalised. At the same time, he said that those trying to damage national security will not be spared. PTI

EC grants paid holiday to Kerala voters on April 9

Thiruvananthapuram: The EC on Friday announced that every person employed in any establishment who is eligible to vote in the Kerala Assembly elections will be granted a paid holiday on polling day, April 9. The Election Commission stated that this directive is in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. PTI

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This is to inform the General Public that my client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from **Dr. FARHAN.M**, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Moosa Sait, residing at No.201, SF-003, Amigo Grand, No.5/2, 2nd Cross, 7th Main, Nandidurga extension, Bangalore-560046 and **Mrs. NAUSHEEN FAHEEM**, D/o. Mr. Mohammed Moosa Sait, W/o Mr.Illiyas Sait.M, Residing at Flat No.401, 'Emerald Icon' HRBR Layout, 3rd Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore -560043. Any person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within **10 days** from the date of this publication failing which shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale transaction.

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NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the NBEMS Diploma Final Theory Examinations on **14th, 15th and 16th May 2026.**

The online applications are being invited from **04th (05:00 PM onwards) to 22nd April 2026 (Till 11:55 PM)** at NBEMS website
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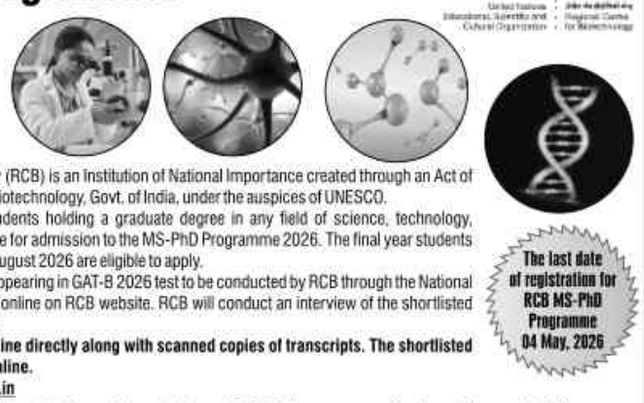

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IRFC INVITES applications through ONLINE MODE for recruitment to the Posts of Assistant (NE-5 Level) and Assistant Manager/Finance (E-1 level), as per the details given below:

S. No.	Posts	Category						Age Limit
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						Total	23	

*Backlog Vacancies

NOTE: 1) Opening date for Online Registration of Application will be 04.04.2026 and closing (last) date will be 01.05.2026 (23:45 Hrs). **2)** Detailed Advertisement No. 01/2026 containing all details of qualification, experience, age limit and other criteria including details about filling up the Online Application and Recruitment process may please be seen at IRFC's website i.e. https://irfc.co.in/ in Career Section. **3.)** Corrigendum if any, or any other notice shall be published on IRFC website only.

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MSCC invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed and experienced firms for Development of Ultra-Modern Cashew Processing Project on PPP Basis in Palghar District under Package Scheme of Incentives – 2019. More details will be available from **06.04.2026** from 17.00 Hrs. on website www.msamb.com. The interested firms can submit their Expression of Interest on or before **24.04.2026** up to 17.00 Hrs.

Chief Executive Officer

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Advertisement No. F. No. NBAIR/2-7/2026-27 dated 02.04.2026 Walk-In Interview for post of Research Associate at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru on 24.04.2026

A Walk-In Interview for the position of Research Associate will be held on 24.04.2026 at 10.00 am at ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru for **"ICAR National Fellow Project on "Biogeography and Biosystematics of white grub fauna (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) of various agroclimatic zones of India"**. The post will be filled purely on contractual basis which is co-terminus with the project and the initial appointment is for one year from the date of engagement or till closure of the project whichever is earlier. The details and application form can be downloaded from Institute website: **www.nbair.res.in.**

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Loan A/c Number	Base Branch	District 1 Contact
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FEDGL01360009289	BELGAUM - 9538166084	BELGAUM - 9538166084
FEDGL0159 0013798, 0013832	BELUR - 9380453339	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL00510015188, 0015209	BYADGI - 8970590276	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982
FEDGL01020018904, 0018905	CALTEX CIRCLE - 9900291944	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0092 0006477, 0006505, 0006544	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038
FEDGL0158 0026567, 0026657, 0026690, 0026706	CHENRAYAPATNA - 9739489738	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL00210010263	CHIKKAMAGALUR - 9164264697	CHIKKAMAGALUR - 9164264697
FEDGL0229 0011680	DAVANGERE - 9110855606	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL00940007628	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836
FEDGL00460021294, 0021407, 0021471, 0023192	GUBBI - 7760812077	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL01000014473	HAGARIBOMMANHALLI - 8197621828	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0162 0019608	HANSUR - 9741533219	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL01040013201	HARAPPANAHALLI - 9945998329	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0059 0027398	HOLENARSIPURA - 9591033235	HASSAN MARKET - 8970429398
FEDGL0412 0009147	HOSADURGA - 8105000953	Hosadurga - 8105000953
FEDGL0099 0011680, 0011763, 0011780, 0011792	HOSPET - 9743956995	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0019 0005193, 0005194	JEEVAN BHEEMA NAGAR - 7259716217	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL00630011488	K R PETE - 9611852104	MANDYA - 8453194687
FEDGL0012 0016127	K R PURAM - 8150839437	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0037 0007684, 0007701, 0007723	K R ROAD - 7829541516	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0005 0006857	KAMMANAHALLI - 8310471800	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0095 0011672, 0011710, 0011715	KAMPLI - 6361077968	CAR STREET BELLARY - 9535205038
FEDGL01550010699	KOPIKAR ROAD - 8792207075	DHARWAD - 8152913405
FEDGL04030005358, 0005361	KOPPAL - 9980073958	GANGAVATHI - 9972317836
FEDGL0404 0010023, 0010035, 0010093, 0010102	KUDLIGI - 7760491423	HOSPET - 9743956995
FEDGL0121 0014906, 0014913	KUNIGAL - 9738833176	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0062 0014484 FEDBD0062 0000084	MALEBENNUR - 8884276416	DAVANGERE - 9110855606
FEDGL0160 0018165, 0018212	NANJANGODE - 9611312789	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL03920005330	NELAMANGALA - 9108850892	BTM Layout - 9980764782
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FEDGL0044 0013355, 0014250	PERIAPATNA - 9449955714	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL0173 0009233	RAMASWAMY CIRCLE - 9620136356	Ramaswamy Circle - 9620136356
FEDGL0232 0013795, 0013800, 0013810	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982	RANEBENNUR - 8904013982
FEDGL01830014333	SHIMOGA - 9513242321	SHIMOGA - 9513242321
FEDGL0461 0006132, 0006168, 0006169	SINDHANUR - 8880890891	Sindhanur - 8880890891
FEDGL03760015138	SIRA - 9686864110	B H Road - 8904344610
FEDGL0193 0009486, 0009507, 0009523	SIRSI - 9845952878	SIRSI - 9845952878
FEDGL0013 0008569, 0008592, 0010102	SULTHANPLYA - 9353708159	BTM Layout - 9980764782
FEDGL0047 0013356, 0013426, 0013453	TIPTUR - 9739894909	B H Road - 8904344610

Change in Venue or Date, if any, will be displayed on our Website https://www.fedfina.com/gold-loan/special-sections/auction-venue/. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit any of the above branch/es or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before auction Date subject to the terms and condition applicable. Auction will be conducted at respective branches. In case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level as per above schedule. This would continue till the auction process is over. On failure of the first offline auction at branch level, auction will also be initiated through the E-auction platforms of SAMIL https://gold.samil.in and/or e-Procurement Technologies Ltd. (AuctionTiger) - https://egold.auctiontiger.net/.

All participating bidders will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them.

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JUDGE DISMISSES BLAKE LIVELY'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAIMS AGAINST JUSTIN BALDONI DURING FILMING OF 'IT ENDS WITH US'

TIMES GLOBAL

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

HAPPY ARE THOSE WHO DARE COURAGEOUSLY TO DEFEND WHAT THEY LOVE — OVID

SOPHIE TURNER SEEN 'DANCING' WITH FRIENDS IN LONDON 4 DAYS AFTER LARA CROFT FILMING POSTPONED DUE TO HER BACK INJURY

The $1.5tn olive branch: Trump seeks history's costliest peace

Under New Defence Proposal, US Poised To Surpass Combined Spending Of Next 10 Countries, Including China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, And UK

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Reuters

US President Donald Trump

Washington: The "Peace President" has just submitted the most expensive war bill in the history of the United States.

The Trump White House on Friday formally requested the US Congress to approve a staggering $1.5 trillion for defence in the 2027 fiscal year. If enacted, the figure would not only set military spending at its highest level in modern history but would also represent a seismic 40% hike over the previous fiscal, a jump last seen during World War II.

For decades, a popular refrain in defence circles was that Washington spends as much on defence as the next seven countries combined. Under this new proposal, the US is poised to surpass the combined defence spending of the next 10 countries, including China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, and the UK.

While the US pushes toward the $1.5 trillion mark, its nearest peer competitor, China, remains a distant second. Though Beijing has accelerated its own military modernisation, its estimated 2026 spend hovers around $310 billion (adjusted for Purchasing Power Parity, the figure is closer to $500 billion, but still barely a third of the new US request).

India, currently the world's fifth- or sixth- largest spender, operates on a budget of approximately $85 billion. In short, Trump's requested increase alone—roughly $430 billion—is larger than the entire annual military budget of China.

The glaring paradox of this budget is the man requesting it. President Trump has spent the last year professing to be the "Peace President," and clamouring for the Nobel Peace Prize, frequently citing his efforts to de-escalate the 2025 India-Pakistan skirmish — and seven, eight, nine or 10 other wars — and his "America First" reluctance for foreign entanglements.

However, his administration's logic is a 21st-century update to the Reagan-era "Peace Through Strength" mantra. White House officials argue that the current Iran War (Operation Epic Fury) and the rapid depletion of precision munitions in the Persian Gulf have exposed a "hollowed-out" industrial base. The $1.5 trillion is being framed not as a budget for expansion, but as a mandatory "recapitalization" of the American arsenal to prevent a larger conflict with China. By making the US military "too big to challenge," Trump argues he is ensuring a peace that diplomacy alone cannot buy.

Critics argue the military-industrial complex, red-flagged by a military commander-turned-president Dwight Eisenhower, is currently enjoying a free run devoid of traditional oversight. For the "Big Five" defence contractors — Lockheed Martin, Boeing, RTX (Raytheon), Northrop Grumman, and General Dynamics — this budget will be a generational windfall.

Despite the "National Security" argument, the $1.5 trillion request is expected to meet fierce resistance even in a fractured Congress. Lawmakers like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and other progressives have labelled the budget "obscene," pointing out that the 40% increase in defence spending is being offset by proposed cuts to domestic healthcare and education. Others are warning of the US becoming a military state with money being diverted from essential services to law enforcement. Some of Trump's own allies are balking at the price tag, with deficit hawks expressing concern that a $1.5 trillion defence bill, coupled with 2025's tax cuts, will push the national debt into a "terminal spiral." For many, the way Washington is spending dollars makes no sense.

HOW CHINA CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

World's largest importer of oil through Hormuz is also one of the best placed to weather the waterway's closure. China consumes oceans of oil from the Gulf and imports roughly as much from the region as India, Japan and South Korea combined. While the world is saving energy, in China, the ruling Communist Party's flagship newspaper is telling readers the country holds its own 'energy rice bowl'

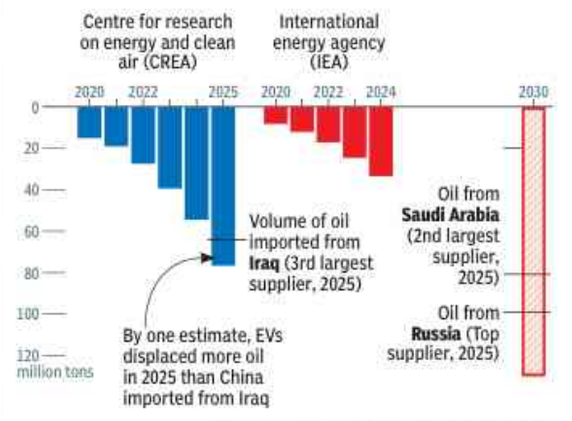
1 Even though China's oil imports via Hormuz are substantial...

in million barrels per day in the first quarter of 2025

2 ...EV boom means oil consumption has lessened over the years...

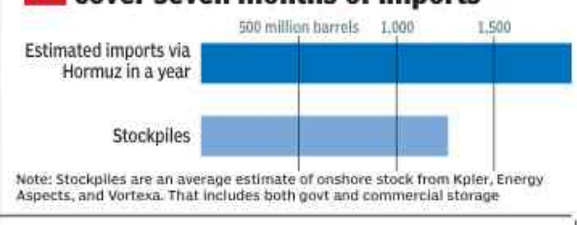
In late 2020, Beijing issued a goal for electric vehicle purchases to hit 20% of new sales in 2025. By last year, sales hit half of all new vehicles. That unexpected boom in EVs means China's fuel consumption has topped out after decades of breakneck growth. The country is burning and importing less oil than it was expected to just a few years ago

Annual oil consumption displaced by electric vehicles by China



Note: The IEA has not released an estimate for 2025

3 ...So, China has enough oil stored to cover seven months of imports



Note: Stockpiles are an average estimate of onshore stock from Kpler, Energy Aspects, and Vortexa. That includes both govt and commercial storage

China's domestic production is growing

China produced 4.3 million barrels per day of oil last year, which was equal to about 40% of all oil imports. Its domestic gas production is growing faster than that. Combined with gas imported via Siberia pipeline from Russia, China is importing less LNG than it did in 2020

Source: Reuters

Hegseth has fired army chief: Report

Washington: US army chief of staff Randy George was fired on Thursday by defence secretary Pete Hegseth, three US defence officials told Reuters, a major staffing change that comes as the US military fights a major war in West Asia.

Even as Hegseth, a former Fox News host, has moved quickly to reshape the department, firing the head of a military branch during wartime is extremely rare. The Pentagon confirmed that George, who had more than a year left in his term, "will be retiring from his position as the 41st chief of staff of the army effective immediately."

Two of the officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Hegseth has also fired General David Hodne, who leads the army's Transformation and Training Command, and Major General William Green, head of the army's Chaplain Corps. George's removal adds to recent upheaval at all levels of leadership at the Pentagon, including the firing last year of the previous chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, air force General C.Q. Brown, as well as the chief of naval operations and air force vice chief of staff. The department did not give a reason for George's departure, which comes as the US military builds up its forces in Asia while carrying out operations against Iran.

The US strikes in the region are largely being carried out by the navy and air force, although US army soldiers have been dispatched to West Asia for air defence systems. The army is the largest branch of the US military, with about 450,000 active-duty soldiers.

There had been no public signs of friction between Hegseth and George, even as Hegseth pursued controversial moves such as firing the army's top lawyer and arranging a massive military parade to celebrate the army's 250th birthday, which coincided with Trump's birthday. Earlier this week, Hegseth also reversed an army decision to investigate army pilots who were flying attack helicopters near singer Kid Rock's house, in an apparent show of support for the vocal Trump backer. CBS News, which first reported the dismissal, said it was not related to the Kid Rock incident.

One of the officials said Hegseth's former military aide and army vice chief of staff, General Christopher LaNeve, will take over George's role in an acting capacity. REUTERS

'Exit of FBI chief Kash Patel under discussion'

There are discussions about FBI director Kash Patel, army secretary Daniel Driscoll and labour secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer leaving the Trump administration, the Atlantic reported on Thursday, citing people familiar with White House plans. The timing is uncertain and President Trump has not yet made up his mind, the Atlantic reported. Rumours are also swirling in Washington that director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard could be in Trump's firing line. AGENCIES

US loses 4th F-15E fighter jet in Iran war

▶Continued from P1

Authorities in the UAE shut down a gas field after a missile interception reportedly rained debris on it and started a fire. Activists reported strikes around Tehran and the central city of Isfahan, but it wasn't immediately clear what was hit.

Late Friday, Iranian TV channels urged residents to hand over any "enemy pilot" to police and promised the $60,000 reward. Authorities urged Iranians to search for the pilot in the mountainous Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province and neighbouring Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province. An on-screen crawl on a channel urged the public to "shoot them if you see them", referring to social media footage circulating of what appeared to be US aircraft in the area.

US AVIATION LOSSES

Confirmed as of April 3, 2026

Unmanned Systems	15 (MQ-9 Reapers)
Manned Fighters	4 (F-15E Strike Eagles)
Intelligence/ Support	2 (1 E-3 Sentry, 1 KC-135 Tanker)
Damaged	1 (F-35 Lightning II, currently non-operational)

US media has been circumspect in reporting American losses. While this is the first loss of a manned jet in operation, it brings the total count of F-15E losses to four, including three to a "friendly fire" incident on March 2 involving Kuwaiti air defences. Additionally, the US has also lost an E-3 Sentry AWACS airplane on the ground on March 27, and over a dozen unmanned MQ-9 Reapers.

The irony of Friday's loss is particularly sharp when viewed through the lens of President Trump's historical commentary on the aerial combat between India and Pakistan last May. Following the brief, four-day war, Trump turned the loss of aircraft into a personal rhetorical sport, becoming a one-man counting house and frequently shifting the numbers of downed jets without providing attribution, radar telemetry, or even specifying which nation's aircraft had hit the dirt.

Fast forward to the current crisis, and Trump's penchant for creative book-keeping is meeting reality. The incident underscores a truth that the President's social media posts ignored: modern air defence environments are lethal, regardless of whose flag is on the tail fin.

With input from agencies

Tomahawk order for Japan delayed

Japan's order for hundreds of Tomahawk missiles from the US is under threat as the US-Israeli war with Iran burns through inventories.

Tomahawk missiles are a centrepiece of Tokyo's new strategy of equipping itself with long-range strike capabilities to deal with challenges from China and North Korea. But Washington has informed Tokyo that deliveries for its order for about 400 missiles by March 2028 would be disrupted, according to people familiar with the situation.

The US has launched hundreds of Tomahawk missiles during the attack on Iran, according to one person familiar with the matter. There were about 4,000 Tomahawks in US stockpiles before the war — including older models and anti-ship variants. BLOOMBERG

Pak sees fuel price rise of up to 55%

Islamabad: Pakistan has announced an unprecedented increase of 43% and 55% in the prices of petrol and high-speed diesel (HSD), respectively, in response to spiking global oil prices. Govt made the announcement on Thursday.

The price of petrol has been increased by Rs 137.23 per litre (42.7%) to Rs 458.41 from Rs 321.17, while HSD by Rs 184.49 per litre (55%) to Rs 520.35 from Rs 335.86, with immediate effect. The price of kerosene was also increased by Rs 34.08 per litre to Rs 457.80.

The govt also adjusted the petroleum levy rates to limit the increase in diesel prices as the levy on petrol was increased to Rs 160 per litre from Rs 105, while it was reduced to zero on diesel from Rs 55.

B'desh cuts office hours, turns off wedding lights

Bangladesh cut office and shop hours and banned decorative lighting at weddings starting on Friday as it seeks to conserve energy stocks. Dhaka ordered all govt, private offices and banks to shut an hour earlier each day starting Friday until further notice. Shopping centres, which normally stay open late, will now shut by 6 pm. PTI

HOW GOVTS ARE SHIELDING HOUSEHOLDS AMID RISING ENERGY PRICES

South Korea
Easing limits on coal-fired power generation capacity and raising nuclear power plant utilisation to 80%

China
Banned refined fuel exports; releasing fertiliser supplies from reserves

Australia
Releasing petrol, diesel from domestic reserves

Japan
To relax rules to increase use of coal-fired power plants for a year, seeks more LNG from Australia

EU
Announced electricity tax cuts, lower grid fees & state support

Bangladesh
Seeking external financing to secure fuel & LNG imports.

Argentina
Delayed the effects of scheduled increases in taxes on liquid fuels, carbon dioxide

Malaysia
To increase petrol subsidies, shoring up fertiliser supply

Photos: AP, AFP

Daily price panel for all fuel types marked as out of stock at a petrol station in Toulouse, France on Friday

blended gasoline earlier than planned

Indonesia
To increase coal production, will implement B50 biodiesel (50% palm oil-based biodiesel) from July 1

South Africa
Will reduce its fuel levy for a month

Greece
To offer subsidies for fuel, fertilisers & ferry ticket discounts in April and May

Vietnam
To switch fully to ethanol-

Brazil
Rolling out a new plan to help states subsidise diesel imports, scrapped federal taxes on diesel and imposed a 12% tax on oil exports

Source: Reuters

Japan ship exits Hormuz along Omani coastline

A French container ship and a Japanese-owned tanker crossed the Strait of Hormuz, in what appear to be the first such transits since the war in Iran shuttered the crucial waterway. The CMA CGM Kribi container ship exited the strait on Friday, according to data. That's the first ship linked to Western Europe that's known to have made it through since the war began more than a month ago. Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines said on Friday that the liquefied natural gas tanker it part-owns also crossed — another first.

Until now, most vessels crossing the strait have been friendly to Iran. In recent days, another path has emerged — along the Omani coastline. The LNG ship took that route, along with two oil supertankers.

The data show the CMA CGM Kribi sailed from waters off Dubai toward Iran on Thursday afternoon, signalling that its owner was French, according to tracking data. It stuck close to the Iranian coast, moving through a channel between the islands of Qeshm and Larak, openly broadcasting its journey. On Friday, it signalled it was off Muscat. BLOOMBERG

UNSC to vote today on resolution seeking Hormuz reopening

UN Security Council will vote on a draft resolution proposed by Bahrain on Saturday on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, even as permanent members China and Russia voiced opposition to earlier versions of the text that would have allowed use of force by countries. The draft resolution affirms that the Strait of Hormuz is open for all transit passage. No state has the right to close or control it. It authorises countries to take "exclusively defensive measures" to secure the transit passage. PTI

Trump unveils 100% tariff on some patented drugs

New York: President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Thursday that could slap long-threatened pharmaceutical tariffs of up to 100% on some patented drugs from companies that don't reach deals with his administration in the coming months.

Companies that have signed a "most favoured nation" pricing deal and are actively building facilities in the US to onshore production of patented pharmaceuticals and their ingredients will have a 0% tariff. For those that don't have a pricing deal but are building such projects in the US, a 20% tariff will apply but will increase to 100% in four years.

A senior administration official told reporters on a press call that companies still have months to negotiate before the 100% tariffs kick in — 120 days for bigger companies, and 180 days for everyone else.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not identify any companies or drugs that were in jeopardy of getting hit with the increased tariffs but noted the administration had already reached 17 pricing deals with major drugmakers, 13 of which have signed. In the order, Trump wrote he deemed such actions necessary "to address the threatened impairment of the national security posed by imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients." It arrived on the first anniversary of Trump's so-called Liberation Day, when the president unveiled sweeping new import taxes on nearly every country in the world that sent the stock market reeling. AP

India largely shielded

India will be largely shielded from Trump's tariffs on patented drugs given that domestic companies are largely into the generics business, shipping products at a significantly lower cost to American buyers. In 2025, India exported $9.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US, accounting for 38% of its global pharma exports of $25.8 billion. TNN

Tipu's ghost and Trump's jibes haunt a transatlantic Franco-American rift

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In the hallowed halls of the White House and the Elysee Palace, the US and France have managed to upgrade a centuries-old alliance into something far more contemporary: a full-blown, transatlantic group chat gone wrong.

The latest fracture in this storied alliance—a bond dating back to when the French were helping Americans dodge British tea taxes at the expense of India—didn't arrive via a wine spat or cheese row. Instead, it was delivered with the flair of a man who treats the global stage like a household argument. During a private lunch on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump suddenly pivoted from the intricacies of Persian Gulf naval blockades to the dynamics of the Macron marriage.

Mocking President Emmanuel Macron's hesitation to commit French forces to the offensive mission fully, Trump unleashed a flurry of personal jabs, claiming that Macron's wife treats him "extremely badly" and that he was "still recovering from the right to the jaw". The remarks referred to a viral video of a domestic Macron spat that the tabloid media has feasted on.

From the Élysée Palace, the response was vintage Macron: chilly, intellectual, and devastatingly snide. "Neither elegant nor up to standard," Macron sneered, effectively informing that he was behaving like a man who puts ketchup on a Michelin-starred steak. "We all need stability... calm," he said, "This isn't a TV show!"

Getty Images

ALL IS NOT WELL: Presidents Macron and Trump

Beneath the personal sniping lies a growing geopolitical divide. While Washington beats the war drums over Iran, Paris has adopted a posture of strategic autonomy, with Macron insisting that Nato is an "Euro-Atlantic" alliance, not a global delivery service for American incursions.

The irony of this ingratitude is not lost on those who remember that the US might currently be a collection of very polite British colonies if it weren't for the French. In 1778, King Louis XVI didn't just send thoughts and prayers; he sent a fleet that effectively broke the British back at Yorktown.

However, French generosity came with a price tag paid in Deccani India. While helping Americans, France was simultaneously ghosting Tipu Sultan, who famously pleaded for French assistance. But Louis XVI had spent so much treasure on the Americans that he had little left for his allies in the East. By 1783, the Americans had their freedom, and France had paved the way for British dominance in India by failing to back Tipu. The American Dream, it seems, was partially financed by the abandonment of the Tiger of Mysore.

Fast forward to 2026, and the Brotherhood of Franco-American Revolutions looks more like a messy, public divorce. In the halls of the Elysee, there is a growing sense that the Statue of Liberty was a gift that should have come with a 250-year return policy.

Still, for all the theatrics, the Franco-American relationship has proven remarkably resilient. This is, after all, a partnership that has survived revolutions, world wars, trade disputes, and prolonged arguments over cheese. What makes the current moment unusual is not just the policy divergence, but the style. Macron speaks the language of norms, institutions, and carefully calibrated diplomacy. Trump operates in the dialect of rallies, headlines, and off-the-cuff remarks about other people's marriages. It is less a clash of nations than of political cultures.

Hindus urge Bangladesh PM to form minority commission

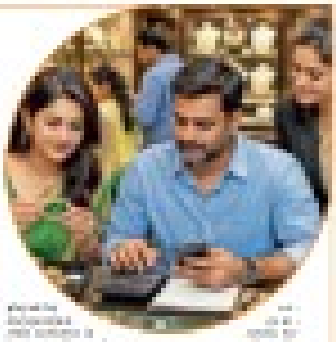
Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Hindu community leaders have urged Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman to form a minority commission to address "issues" faced by members of the minority group, as it cited incidents of harassment and deprivation, including job losses, during the tenure of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt.

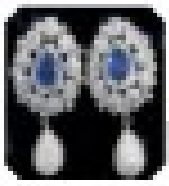
A delegation met Rahman on Thursday and sought enactment of a minority protection law and establishment of a Hindu foundation for protection of rights and welfare of the Hindu community. "He listened to our concerns and assured us that the issues would be addressed gradually," said Jayanta Kumar Deb, president of the Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee. Deb, along with Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad president Basudeb Dhar and advocate Subrata Chowdhury, also sought at least three days of public holiday for Durga Puja.

All that Glitters, Guided

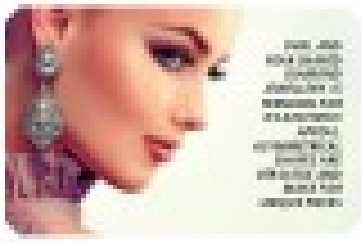
Whether jewellery overwhelms you, first and! Let our expert guide transform the process into a simpler and more enjoyable experience for you



The Allure of Unconventional Cuts



Diamond lovers are embracing things with distinctive shapes such as ovals and pears. Emeralds are rising in popularity, offering a chic sense of individuality



TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

The Week That Was...

Shares recover on ₹ rally, but war worries drag mkts for 6th week

Stocks recovered on Thursday on a rupee surge after RBI action, but fading hopes of a quick end to the Iran war stretched the losing streak. Nifty and sensex fell 0.5% and 0.4% for the holiday-shortened week as the war dragged on and Brent crude rose to $109 per barrel after US President vowed more aggressive strikes on Iran

₹2L cr

Was the GST collection in March, highest since the rate restructuring in Sept. Domestic collections were up nearly 6%, while imports-based collections rose 18%

Source: screener.in, ETIG, Reuters

Govt seeks to push cooktop supply, boost production

Nudges Cos, Institutional Kitchens To Move To Electric Cooking

Saksham.Mehta
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt is working to step up the supply of induction cooktops and vessels, while nudging companies and institutional kitchens to move to electricity-based cooking to reduce pressure on gas.

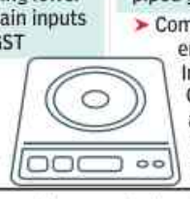
To meet the immediate requirement of cooktops, whose demand has increased in the wake of LPG concerns, imports are lined up, while domestic production is sought to be speeded up in the coming weeks.

Commerce & industry minister Piyush Goyal, DPIIT secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia, power secretary Pankaj Agarwal and DGFT Lav Aggarwal discussed the issue on Saturday, which was followed by discussions with industry representatives.

In the coming days, govt is expected to relax some of the norms, such as postponing the implementation of a quality control order on consumer electronics by six months, to create domestic production capability.

LOOKING TO CUT LPG DEPENDENCE

- Induction cookers have around 60% import components, while vessels used for cooking need a layer of coating which is also imported in large quantities
- Industry has sought concessions, including lower import duty on certain inputs as well as a cut in GST
- Govt may postpone the implementation of a quality control order on consumer electronics by six months to create domestic production capability
- Govt is also pushing factories, canteens and restaurants with large kitchens to shift from LPG or piped gas to electric cooking
- Companies such as engineering firm Danfoss India, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles and auto components maker ZF have moved to electric cooking



Induction cookers have around 60% import component, including PCB and microcrystalline glass, while the vessels used for cooking need a layer of coating which is also imported in large quantities. Industry executives have sought concessions, including lower import duty on certain inputs as well as a cut in GST.

The initial rush for cylinders resulted in consumers flocking to stores and e-commerce sites, resulting in a stockout on several online platforms.

Industry sources said that they have placed orders for cooktops, which are expected to land over the next few weeks, including through air freight. A senior govt official said govt wants to ensure adequate availability and reasonable pricing of induction cooktops.

Separately, govt is also pushing factories, canteens and restaurants with large kitchens to shift from LPG or piped gas to electric cooking.

Industry estimates suggest that converting an industrial kitchen from LPG to induction may cost about Rs 15 lakh, compared with annual LPG costs of about Rs 50 lakh. This could result in annual savings of Rs 35 lakh, and a total payback period of around three years, as electric kitchens are about three times more expensive to set up.

Already, as reported by **TOI** in its Chennai edition, companies such as engineering firm Danfoss India, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles and auto components maker ZF have moved to electric cooking. In an exchange filing, Jubilant Foodworks, which has franchisee arrangements with several players, including Domino's Pizza, said it is working on alternate energy sources like electricity and piped natural gas to conserve LPG.

Several companies making induction cooktops had seen an increase in prices when demand surged initially but most have seen the value erosion since the start of the war in Iran.

Contract workers face job loss risks on fuel, input supply woes

Rupali.Mukherjee
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Fuel and raw material supply constraints, which have forced shutdowns in certain segments of manufacturing, especially small businesses, may hurt contractual and gig workers.

Some signs of strain are visible in certain sectors, including steel, automotive, textiles, pharma, medical devices as fuel supply, input cost and availability (shortage) bite into operations, industry representatives and HR experts told **TOI**.

Restaurants, quick service restaurants (QSRs) and cloud kitchens are also feeling the heat, with the LPG crisis forcing many to curtail operations or shut down temporarily.

The disruption has forced larger players to halt operations and switch to alternate fuels, according to stock exchange filings by certain companies. Kirloskar Ferrous Industries resumed one of its plants on March 21 after an LPG-driven shutdown, while Jubilant FoodWorks, which operates Domino's, is accelerating a shift to electricity and piped natural gas.

While no hard data is available yet on the scale of job losses, multiple companies and industry experts across sectors confirmed the trend.

"Supply chain disruptions triggered by the LPG crisis are beginning to hit a wide swathe of MSME clusters and labour-intensive sectors. Small and medium automotive component makers, critical to the car industry's supply chain, are among those worst affected, given their dependence on gas. Ceramics hubs, such as Khurja and glass clusters like Firozabad, have seen production slowdowns and even shutdowns, while operations in Agra's units are impacted. Glass, packaging, paints and plastics are facing supply shortages, with a cascading effect on downstream industries, including automobile and pharma. In Moradabad's brassware cluster and Coimbatore's small foundries, rising input costs and weak demand, particularly for pumps and cast iron components, are compounding the stress. The textiles sector, too, is grappling with higher fuel costs," said Ashok Saigal, chairman of CII National MSME Council.

Foundry units in the south operated at nearly 50% capacity during March, while the paint cluster in Aurangabad were also disrupted. Adding to the strain is migrant labour distress, with LPG (cooking gas) cylinder refill costs surging from around Rs 150 to Rs 450 per kg, many workers are opting to return to their villages, deepening labour shortages, he added.

The pressure is equally visible in India's gig economy. The gig workforce is estimated at around 1.2 crore, a majority concentrated in last-mile delivery and those with cab aggregators, making this segment particularly sensitive to both demand shocks and workforce fluctuations, says Balasubramanian A, senior VP with TeamLease Services, an HR firm.

"Platforms are likely to push toward multi-category roles for workers, reducing dependence on a single segment like food delivery. Also, during elections, harvest seasons and key festivals, a section of workers typically returns to home states, further tightening availability. With polls this month in several states, this (labour) pool could get tightened," he said.

"While no immediate structural change is expected from companies, gig workers are already adversely impacted by the slowdown in operations," says Sonal Agrawal, managing partner, Accord India/AltoPartners.

Organisations are currently moving beyond reactive measures toward a more resilient recalibration of their workforce models, particularly within the gig and delivery ecosystems, says Yeshab Giri, chief commercial officer, operational talent solutions, Randstad India, a talent company.

FEELING THE HEAT

- Some sectors such as steel, automotive, textiles, pharma are showing signs of strain
- Fuel supply, input cost and raw material shortage are affecting operations, say industry representatives and HR experts
- LPG crisis is forcing many restaurants, quick service restaurants and cloud kitchens to curtail operations or shut down temporarily
- Foundry units in the south have operated at nearly 50% capacity in March
- Paint cluster in Aurangabad is also facing disruptions

> Ceramics hubs, such as Khurja and glass clusters like Firozabad, have seen production slowdowns and even shutdowns, while operations in Agra's units are impacted... In Moradabad's brassware cluster and Coimbatore's small foundries, rising input costs and weak demand, particularly for pumps and cast iron components, are compounding the stress. The textiles sector, too, is grappling with higher fuel costs —CII NATIONAL MSME COUNCIL

Jobs in informal mfg sector below 2015-16 levels: Survey

Shiva.Rajora@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India's vast informal manufacturing sector has seen jobs stay flat for nearly a decade, while the formal manufacturing sector has seen an increase, marking a sharp divergence in the growth trajectory of the two segments.

An analysis of the latest unincorporated enterprises survey released last month showed that 3.5 crore people were employed in informal manufacturing in 2025, as compared to 3.6 crore in 2015-16, while the number of enterprises rose to 2.1 crore from 2 crore.

In contrast, data from the latest annual survey of industries (ASI), which tracks the formal manufacturing sector, showed that a little under 2 crore were employed in 2023-24, up 37% over 2015-16 (see graphic).

Santosh Mehrotra, visiting professor at the University of Bath, said that in the past few years, the organised sector has gained at the expense of the unorganised sector, but added that this does not imply formalisation of the economy. "Instead, it reflects the growing stratification of the economy, wherein a relatively small formal sector is witnessing a spurt in productivity and growth and the vast informal sector which is the mainstay of the vast population is facing stagnation," he added.

The divergence between the two sectors is also visible in the worker's earnings.

Between 2015-16 and 2025, in real terms, the emoluments per hired worker in informal manufacturing enterprises grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 2.1% to Rs 72,172 from Rs 59,806.

In contrast, total emoluments paid to workers in real terms in the formal manufacturing sector grew at 4.5% CAGR between 2015-16 and 2023-24. The net profit in the formal manufacturing sector, meanwhile, grew at 4.4% CAGR during this period.

DIVERGING TREND

Informal Mfg Sector	July '15-June '16	Jan-Dec 2025
No. of workers (crore)	3.6	3.5
No. of establishments (crore)	2	2.1
Real emolument (in ₹) per hired worker (2012 base)	59,806	72,172

Source: ASUSE surveys, NSO

Formal Mfg Sector	April '15-March '16	April 2023-March 2024
No. of workers (crore)	1.4	2.0
No. of operational factories	1,91,062	2,12,990
Total real emoluments (in ₹cr) paid to workers (2012 base)	2,72,454	3,89,173

Source: ASI data, NSO

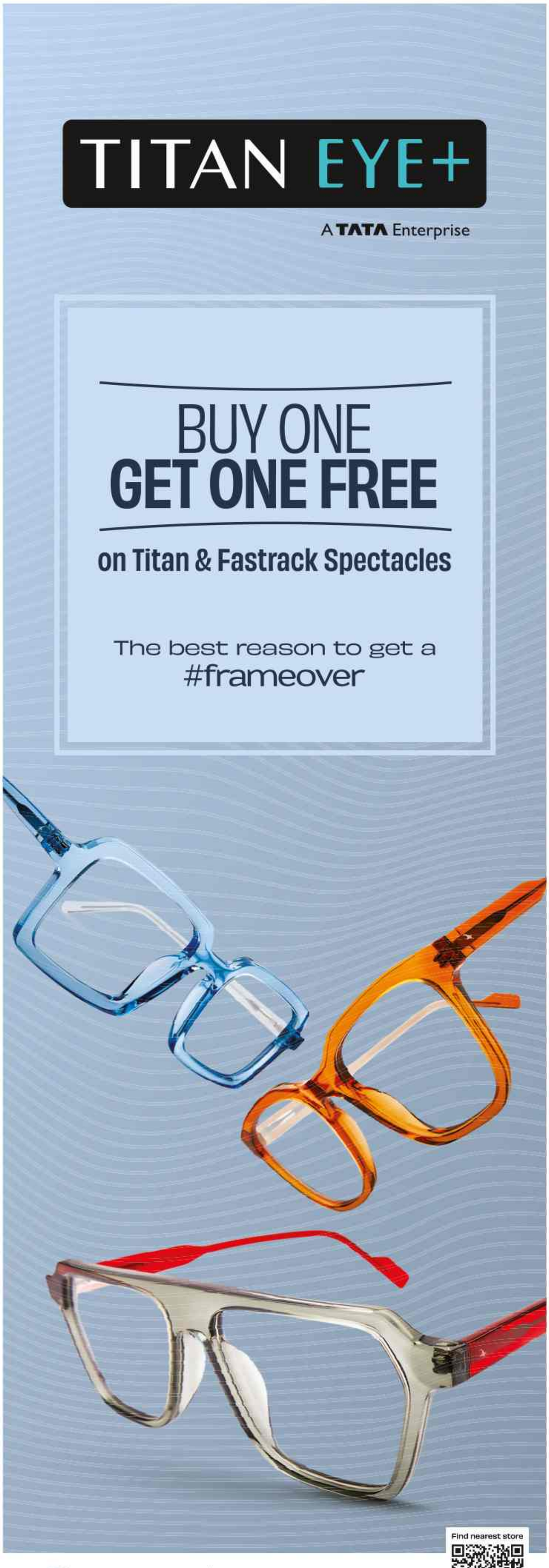
GI applications cross 2,000 mark on Centre's push

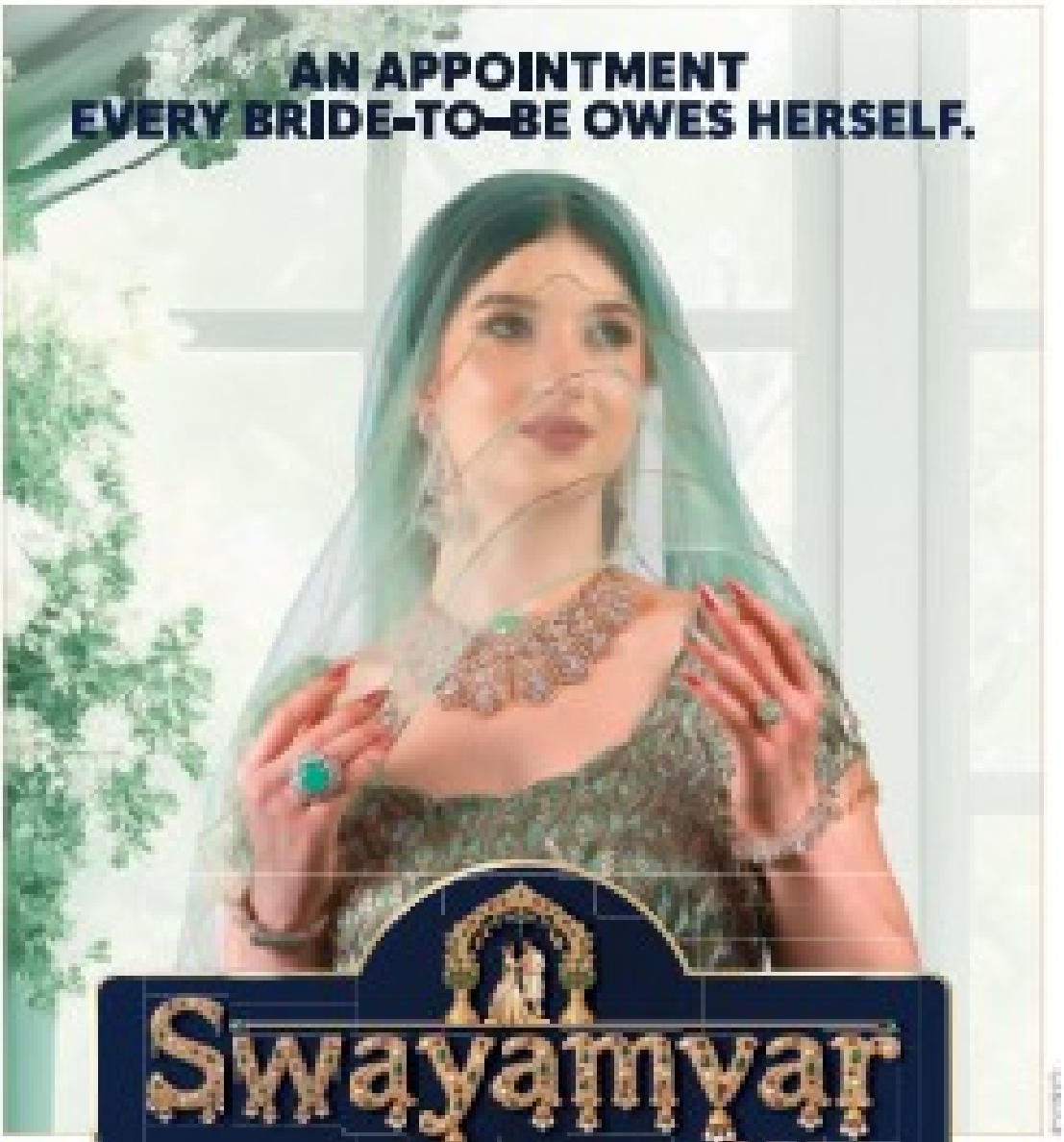
Hyderabad: The Centre's push to ensure 10,000 geographical indication (GI)-tagged products by 2030 seems to have moved into a higher gear, with the total number of GI applications finally crossing the 2,000 mark to reach 2,013 as on April 2, 2026.

While Kashmir Kagzi Badam was the 2,000th application to be filed on April 2 this year, Sikkim's Chyabrung was the 2,013th application to be filed on the same day. Since April 1, 2025, when Khavda pottery of Kutch became the 1,482nd application to be filed, the highest number of GI applications, at 510, have been filed in FY25-26 alone, the highest in a single fiscal since the first GI for Darjeeling tea was filed in Oct 2003.

In fact, if the past two fiscal years saw over 780 GI applications being filed, just the past three days saw 21 GI applications being filed. Till date, as many as 724 GI-tagged products have been registered across the country. GI experts attributed the acceleration in application filing to the govt push that involved slashing of the fees from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1,000 last year.

—Swati Bharadwaj





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KEY MARKET MOVES % CHG SINCE IRAN WAR	
Brent oil futures	▲50.4
US gasoline price (avg spot)	▲32.3
European benchmark gas	▲58.3
Bloomberg dollar index	▲2.4
Global stocks*	▼5.9
BSE sensex	▼9.8
Rupee vs $	▼2.3

*Bloomberg world large and mid-cap price return index
Pre-war baseline is Feb 27
Source: Bloomberg
Data as of 2100 IST

OpenAI acquires US tech talk show TBPN

OpenAI, jostling with Anthropic for enterprise customers, has bought TBPN, an online tech talk show that has built a loyal Silicon Valley following through interviews with industry CEOs. Entrepreneurs John Coogan and Jordi Hays, who started TBPN in late 2024 with the aim of competing with industry heavyweights including CNBC, will join OpenAI as part of Thursday's move. OpenAI did not disclose the financial details of the deal. REUTERS

'Crude above $100 to push inflation, trigger rate hike'

Mumbai: Crude oil sustaining above $100 per barrel will push the headline inflation above 6%, and trigger rate hikes, a foreign brokerage has said. "Sustained oil above $100/bbl would push inflation beyond 6%, likely triggering rate hikes," Economists at HSBC said, adding that we are at "crossroads" as Brent has averaged $100 in March. AGENCIES

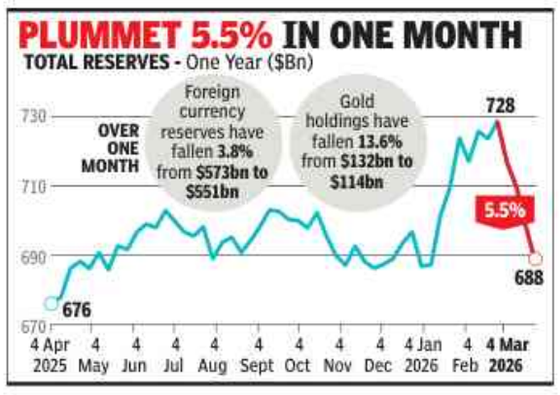
Steep slide: Forex reserves decline over $10bn in a week

Over $40bn Wiped In 4 Weeks | Foreign Currency, Gold Lead Fall

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: India's foreign exchange reserves fell sharply by $10.3 billion in the week ended March 27, 2026, taking the total to $688.1 billion, driven largely by a decline in foreign currency assets and gold holdings amid currency market intervention by RBI.

The fall was led by foreign currency assets, which dropped by $6.6 billion. These assets, the largest component of reserves, reflect valuation changes in non-dollar currencies such as the euro, pound, and yen, and include the impact of RBI's intervention to stabilise the rupee. Gold reserves declined by $3.7 billion during the week. The fall in gold, despite its smaller share in total reserves, points to a correction in global gold prices over the period. Other components showed limited movement. Special Drawing Rights rose marginally by $17 million, while the reserve position in the IMF declined by $17 million. These changes did not offset the losses in foreign currency assets and gold.



With this week's decline, forex reserves have dropped for four consecutive weeks by over $40 billion. RBI said India's forex reserves fell by $11.4 billion last week (ended March 20, 2026) to $698.4 billion. The prior week (ended March 13) saw a $7.1 billion fall to $709.8 billion. This has led to talk among commentators about special measures that could be undertaken to attract foreign exchange flows.

The rupee had weakened by over 4% until Wednesday before recovering 1.8% on Thursday after RBI tightened rules to curb speculative bets. The central bank asked banks to unwind long dollar positions. After some lenders shifted these positions to clients, RBI issued another directive on Tuesday asking banks not to offer hedging services in the non-deliverable forward market.

Analysts are also concerned about RBI's liabilities in the forward market. To defend the rupee, the central bank's net short dollar forward position is estimated to have hit $77 billion in Feb 2026, and may have risen further in March. While this preserves immediate spot reserves, it creates a large future dollar liability. Maturing contracts can drain reserves and tighten liquidity. Despite the recovery on Thursday, dealers expect volatility to persist next week following the escalation of conflict.

No person who isn't of Zoroastrian faith shall be appointed as trustee: Mistry

▶ From P1

The real estate was intended for the Parsi community's use as a recreation ground, nursing home or hospital.

Mistry has said that in light of the "illegalities" in the running of the Bai Hirabai Trust, an administrator should be appointed in place of the present board of trustees, which includes Noel Tata, Jimmy Tata, Jehangir Jehangir and Darius Khambata. The same four individuals, along with Srinivasan and Singh, are also on the board of the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) where Mistry's trusteeship was not extended following a vote by Noel, Srinivasan, and Singh against it. Mistry's term ended last year and he subsequently resigned from the Bai Hirabai Trust too.

In his objection application filed with the Maharashtra charity commissioner on Friday, Mistry said that according to clauses 6 and 18 of the 1923 deed, no person who is not of Zoroastrian faith shall be appointed as a trustee, and if any trustee ceases to profess the Zoroastrian faith, he shall cease to be a trustee, as if he were 'dead'. Similarly, any person who ceases to be a permanent resident of the Bombay Presidency shall cease to be a trustee. Mistry contended that both Srinivasan, chairman emeritus of TVS Motor, and Singh, a former defence secretary, "never met the qualifications to become trustees and are expressly disqualified from acting as trustees." Mehli has sought the Maharashtra charity commissioner to "initiate a detailed inquiry...by calling for an affidavit by each applicant."

> **Mistry contended that both Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh, "never met qualifications to become trustees and are expressly disqualified from acting as trustees."**

If unqualified trustees are excluded, then according to Mistry, the total number of trustees would fall below the mandatory minimum of five required by the trust deed. Mistry has submitted that "no meetings have been conducted" in Bai Hirabai Trust "over the past two years, with no regard for the consequences for the beneficiaries of the trust or its legacy of public and charitable works," and asked the commissioner to call for the minutes of all meetings held during this period and for inspection of all records of the trust.

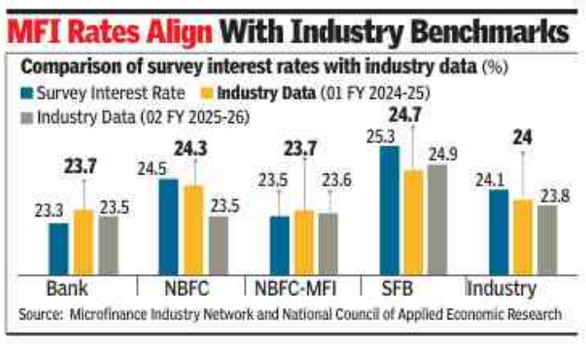
According to Mistry, Srinivasan and Singh's appointments are void from inception and that any actions taken by them as trustees are non-est in law and without authority. Mistry clarified that his objective is only to expose the alleged illegal functioning of Bai Hirabai Trust and is not intended to seek his reinstatement to the trust. Noel, Srinivasan and Singh could not be reached for immediate comment.

Microfinance replaces informal credit: Report

In 14 Yrs, Share Of Informal Borrowing Falls To 1%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A structural shift is reshaping India's microfinance sector, with regulated lenders displacing informal sources as borrowing from moneylenders fell to 1% in 2024-25 from 46% in 2011, according to a survey by Microfinance Industry Network and National Council of Applied Economic Research.



The survey, which covered 10,342 borrowers across 10 states, shows a maturing market where formal credit has become the primary source of finance for rural and semi-urban households. According to the report, microfinance now serves as the main driver of livelihoods rather than a fallback option.

Digital adoption has reshaped disbursement, with nearly 100% of loans now credited directly into bank accounts of around 75 million women borrowers. According to the survey, this has reduced leakages and improved turnaround time, with average loan disbursal completed within six days. However, repayments remain largely cash-based. Only 12% of borrowers use digital modes such as UPI, while 88% continue to repay through cash collections conducted during group meetings. The report said this gap reflects a digital divide, as 61% of borrowers own smartphones but remain reluctant to transact digitally due to low financial literacy and concerns over fraud.

The survey finds that microfinance lending is predominantly income-generating rather than consumption-led. Over 75% of loans are used for enterprise activities. According to the data, 48.1% of borrowers used credit to expand existing businesses, 14.4% to start new ventures, and around 13% for agriculture and allied activities. "Microfinance has become a bridge to opportunity and financial independence," the report said, adding that 78% of borrowers contribute to household income.

Cost arbitrage remains a key driver of the shift away from informal credit. The average effective interest rate for regulated microfinance is around 33%, far lower than rates charged by informal lenders. According to the report's qualitative findings, moneylenders charge between 97% and 178% annually and often demand gold as collateral.

PNB, Union & IDFC Bank see credit outpace deposit growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Credit growth continued to outpace deposit mobilisation for Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India and IDFC FIRST Bank at the end of the March quarter, reflecting sustained loan demand in a tight liquidity environment.

Punjab National Bank reported global advances of Rs 12,61,420 crore as of March 31, 2026, up nearly 13% year-on-year, while global deposits rose 9.3% to Rs 17,11,476 crore. The bank's total global business stood at Rs 29,72,896 crore, reflecting a 10.8% increase. Domestic advances grew 12.2% to Rs 11,95,811 crore and domestic deposits rose 9.2% to Rs 16,49,409 crore. The global credit-deposit ratio stood at 73.7% at the end of the quarter.

Union Bank of India reported global advances of Rs 10,78,779 crore, marking a 9.8% year-on-year increase, while global deposits rose 2.7% to Rs 13,06,900 crore. Total global business stood at Rs 23,85,679 crore, up 5.8%. Growth was led by the retail, agriculture and MSME segments, where advances rose 12.6% to Rs 5,98,620 crore. Domestic CASA deposits increased 7.9% to Rs 4,59,988 crore, with the CASA ratio improving to 35.2%.

IDFC FIRST Bank reported loans and advances of Rs 2,90,362 crore at the end of March, up 20% year-on-year, while customer deposits rose 17.2% to Rs 2,84,327 crore. The bank's CASA ratio improved to 49.8% from 46.9% a year earlier. It said customer acquisition remained stable through March despite year-end tax outflows and tight system liquidity. It said asset quality stress in its microfinance portfolio has normalised, supporting further credit growth.

Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai

Request for Proposals for Selection of Service Provider for the Development of a Maritime Training Ecosystem

Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)(hereinafter referred to as the 'client') Government of India, is seeking to engage a Service Provider for the Development of a Maritime Training Ecosystem (hereinafter called "Services").

The full details of this assignment are outlined in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document. 2) The Proposals are invited online from experienced Bidder/ agencies that meet the eligibility and qualification criteria detailed in the RFP.

The RFP document is available on both the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and the official client website at https://dgma.gov.in/

RFP Ref No.	20-19/12/2025-TRG-DGS
Name of Assignment	Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Selection of Service Provider for the Development of a Maritime Training Ecosystem.
Date of Publishing	2nd April 2026, 4:00 pm
Start date for receiving Queries / requests for clarification	3rd April 2026, 10:00 AM
Last date for receiving Queries / requests for clarification	13th April 2026, 6:00 pm
Pre-Bid meeting	13th April 2026, 12:00 pm
Start date of submission of Proposal	15th April 2026, 03:00 PM
Last date of submission of Proposal	15th May 2026, 4:00 pm
Mode of submission-Online	CPPP portal (https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app)

Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, will be uploaded on the CPPP portal directly.

DGS reserves the right to cancel or modify this request without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
(Deependra Singh Bisen)
Deputy Director General of Shipping (STCW)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) TENDER NOTICE NO. 52 UBL 2025-26 Date: 27.03.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender (IREPS) for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Hubballi Division:Gadag-Hotagi Section: W beam metal crash barrier alongside of track for a length of 5.65 Km under Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Vijayapura Jurisdiction	Rs. 2,32,80,770.00
2	Hubballi Division:Proposed Construction of NEW office building for Senior Section Engineer/Electrical/Mechanical depot at Gadag (GDG).	Rs. 68,41,143.00
3	Hubballi Division: Augmentation of Mechanized Laundry at (UBL) Hubballi Railway Station	Rs. 2,51,18,618.00
4	Hubballi Division: Providing height gauge at the approaches of bow string arch road over bridge girders at ROB no.2A between Londa-Gunji (LD-GNJ) stations, ROB no.121A (3rd gate) between Desur-Belgaum (DUR- BGM) stations, Road Over Bridge no.126A (BGM yard DUR end, single lane) & 126A (BGM yard BGM end single lane) between Desur-Nagsamudram (DUR- NGM) stations, ROB no.164/A (RBG yard) between Raybag-Chinchali (RBG-CNC) stations and ROB no.181B (KUD yard) between Chinchali- Kudachi (CNC-KUD) stations; all in Londa-Miraj(LD-MRJ) section under Senior Section Engineer/Bridges/Belagavi jurisdiction (Total no. of bridges 6 numbers)	Rs. 81,44,310.00
5	Hubballi Division: Supply of ballast at Shedbal Depot in Senior Divisional Engineer/West/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 4,32,80,092.00
6.	Hubballi Division:Cleaning of water tanks, GLR's and Over Head tanks in colony and service building, cleaning and maintenance of existing sewer lines in office and staff quarters and valve man to operate valve in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Belagavi BGM) and Assistant Divisional Engineer/Castlerock Jurisdiction for a period of two years.	Rs. 1,52,32,949.00

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 29.04.2026**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination, Hubballi

PUB/6/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-34-26 Date- 30.03.2026

E-Tendering Notice

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through online (E-Tendering) for the following works.

E-Tender No.: JHS-N-W-34-26

Description of work: Augmentation of Networking Backbone for modernization of PRS & UTS over JHS division.

Approx Cost : ₹ 36488708.68 | **Earnest Money:** ₹ 729800/-

Cost of Tender Form: Nil, **Opening of tender: 21.04.2026** Time **15.00**

Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance: 09 Months

- Tender online can be submitted up to **15:00** hrs on **21.04.2026.**
- For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in. (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/JHANSI DIVISION-S AND T)** 731/26 FA

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-N-2026-63 | **Approx Cost** : ₹ 5990166.94

Description of work: Provision of longer loop line on 3rd line at SIKRODA KWANRI Station in VGLJ-DHO section of ADEN/GWL under Sr.DEN/N/JHS jurisdiction in Jhansi Division.

Earnest Money : ₹ 119800.00

Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance of letter: 04 Months.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-N-2026-67 | **Approx Cost** : ₹ 16131742.35

Description of work: Provision of longer loop line on 3rd line at ANANTPAITH Station in VGLJ-DHO section of ADEN/LINE/JHS under Sr.DEN/N/JHS jurisdiction in Jhansi Division.

Earnest Money : ₹ 322600.00

Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance of letter: 06 Months.

Date of closing Tender: 23.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs.

Tender online can be submitted upto **15:00 hrs** on **23.04.2026.** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in**. 726/26(DG)

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH,

Room No. 324, Bapu Bhawan, Vidhan Shabha Marg, Lucknow (UP) 226001, India

ADVERTISEMENT NO.- 01/2026

Department of Energy, Government of Uttar Pradesh invites on-line application for the following posts:-

SL. NO.	NAME OF THE POST	NAME OF CORPORATION/DISCOM	NOS. OF VACANCY
1-	Director (Distribution)	U.P.Power Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1
2-	Director (Commercial)	Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Agra	1
3-	Director (Technical)	Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Varanasi	1
4-	Director (Commercial)	Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Meerut	1
5-	Director (Technical)	Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Meerut	1
6-	Director (Finance)	Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Meerut	1
7-	Director (Commercial)	Kesco Ltd. Kanpur	1
8-	Director (Finance)	U.P Power Transmission Corporation Ltd., Lucknow	1

Last date of application is 06 May, 2026 till 5 P.M.

*Details and online application is available on the website: **www.uppcl.org***

The following information will generally be sought in application form on website. (The indicative format is only for reference).

Basic details (Name, father's/Husband name, age, address, email, mobile no. etc.) educational qualifications details, work experience, details of your vision and achievement in past organizations.

ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY
(ENERGY AND ADDITIONAL ENERGY SOURCE),
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH.

"Save Electricity for the interest of the Nation" RO-4 dt. 02.04.2026

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: CEN00AGC0526 **Date:** 02.04.2026

E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Deputy Chief Engineer (Construction), North Central Railway, Agra Cantt for and on behalf of the President of India invites in **TWO PACKET SYSTEM** open tender on prescribed forms on line (E-Tendering). Tender offer can be submitted on line up to **15.00 hours** of **28.04.2026,** on website **http://ireps.gov.in.** The details of the tenders are as under:-

Description of Work: Idgah yard remodelling (Provision of two additional lines with platform and connection of AF-BKI doubling in in Idgah Yard); Conversion of D-Class station into B- Class station of Bateshwar and Construction of Station Building with platform at Karondhana station in connection with Bhandai Flyover work.

Approx. Cost: ₹ 57.27 Cr. (App.) | **Earnest Money in Rs.:** ₹ 1,14,54,300

Completion Period: 12 Months | **Date of Opening : 28.04.2026**

Validity: 90 Days. **Note:** For complete details and submission of tender please see Indian Railway's website **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** 735/26(A)

North central railways | @CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION I JODHPUR

Tele - 0291-2651750 E-Mail: rj_acejo@nic.in

No. ACE/PHED/Region-Ist/Jod/TA/2025-26/ Date :-

Notice Inviting Bid (NIT NO. 20/2025-26)

Bid for following work is invited from interested bidders up to 6.00 pm of 21-04-2026.

S. No.	NIT No.	Work Description	Estimated Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Unique Bid No. (UBN)
1	20/ 2025-26	Work of Construction of Rapid Gravity Filter Plant, CWR, Pump House and Rising Pipeline at the Phulad Dam in Marwar Junction to provide clean drinking water to 6 villages of Gram Panchayat Phulad and 34 Tail End Villages of Jawai Pipeline in Pali under Budget Announcement including 5 Years O&M after 1 year DLP.	1290.30	PHE2526WLOB15970

Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal - http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state, and PHED department website.

DIPR/C/6327/2026 (SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE) **ADDL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION (I) JODHPUR**

MAHANAGAR GAS LIMITED

CIN: L40200MH1995PLC088133
1801-02, 18th Floor, A Wing, Parinee Crescenzo, C38 & C39, Block – G, Bandra Kurla Complex, Opp. MCA, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051, Maharashtra

MAHANAGAR GAS

EMPANELMENT NOTICE FOR PNG DRIVE CONTRACTORS IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED

Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) is engaged in the business of distribution of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai, Raigad, Latur, Osmanabad, Ratnagiri, Chitradurgha and Davangere.

To overcome the ongoing LPG crisis in the country, MGL has ambitious plans to reach out to maximum number of households in its existing and new areas by providing PNG Connections inside the Kitchen with aim to replace LPG with PNG in domestic as well as commercial segments. To achieve this objective, MGL intends to onboard sound, capable and competent contractors having proven track record of safety for following category:

Sr. No.	Category
1	Laying of Polyethylene (PE) Pipeline for Medium/ Low pressure network
2	Erection of GI pipeline (above ground) and associated activities required for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) Connection
3	Online PNG Connection in gasified building

Contractors who have relevant experience of pipeline laying (Telecom, water, oil & gas etc.) / piping work in residential building / firefighting and have adequate resources readily available such as plumbers, labours, technicians etc. and who wish to work with MGL with immediate mobilization can Walk-In along with relevant credentials at the above mention addresses from 06th April 2026 to 15th April 2026 between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Manpower suppliers who can supply plumbers / technicians / Labours can also Walk-In along with their credentials for providing resources on contract basis.

For any queries, please contact: **erande.sanket@mahanagargas.com (8657975422); asingh@mahanagargas.com (9324941163);**

Sd/-
T.L Sharnagat
Sr. Vice President (C&P)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tendering Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG - N- 2026-65

Description of work : Upgradation of Basic Infrastructure Facilities at New Taj Pitline Gwalior.

Approx Cost : 5298878.25 | **Earnest Money : 106000.00**

Date of completion /period from issue acceptance letter. 06 Months

Date of closing Tender : 28/04/2026 at 15:00 hrs., Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 28.04.2026. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways **website www.ireps.gov.in** 722/26 (D)

North central railways | @ CPRONCR | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION) (GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND)
SAHASTRADHARA HELIDROME, P.O. KULHAN, DEHRADUN- 248001, UTTARAKHAND
EMAIL: UCADADOON@GMAIL.COM; WEBSITE: WWW.UCADA.IN

Ref.: 4083/UCADA/2026 DATE: 03/04/2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) Dehradun invites proposals from eligible aviation agency(s) to submit their proposals/bids for the following packages.

S. No.	Name of Package	Date of Start of downloading the document	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	Last Date of submission of bids	EMD (INR)
1.	HIRING OF TWIN ENGINE HELICOPTER FOR VVIP/ VIP/OTHER MOVEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF 01 MONTH Ref. No.: 4083/RFP/TWINENGINE/UCADA/ 2026)	03/04/2026	06/04/2026	10/04/2026	1,00,000/-

Details can be obtained from the website **www.uktenders.gov.in** and/or **www.ucada.in** from **03/04/2026, 03:00 PM.** The proposal must be submitted online on the portal, **www.uktenders.gov.in** only. **Note:-1.** The corrigendum for the above packages will be uploaded on website **www.uktenders.gov.in** &/or **www.ucada.in 2.** Email Id **ucadadoon@gmail.com** & **procurement.ucada@gmail.com** may be contacted for any information. **CEO, UCADA**

सीएसआईआर-केंद्रीय विद्युतरसायन अनुसंधान संस्थान
CSIR-CENTRAL ELECTROCHEMICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
कारैकुडी/KARAIKUDI – 630 003

Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7399043

An Open Tender call for the procurement of Pilot Plant.

The Director, CSIR-Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, invites bids from reputed manufacturers or their authorised bidders for the establishment of a pilot line for NMC cathode material synthesis.

Interested bidders are requested to visit the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Portal and the official website (www.cecri.res.in) for detailed tender specifications, eligibility criteria, and submission guidelines. All further updates regarding the bid would be available on GeM Portal.

Pre-Bid Conference Details: Date: 07 April 2026

Time: 11.00 AM (onwards)

Venue: Purchase Conference Hall, CSIR-CECRI, Karaikudi – 630 003.

All Prospective bidders are encouraged to participate in the pre-bid meeting for clarification and discussion regarding the bid.

वरिष्ठ स्टोर और खरीद निरीक्षक /Sr. Controller of Stores and Purchase

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PRESS NOTICE INVITING e-BIDS

The Executive Engineer, Central Vista Project Division-8, CPWD, adjacent to Vayu Bhawan, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi-110011. (email: delee-cvpd8@cpwd.gov.in, Mob: 7989792764) on behalf of the President of India invites online Percentage Rate bids on EPC Contract from eligible firms/agencies satisfying the eligibility criteria, in two bid system for the following work:

NIT No: 01/CE/CVPZ2/CVP/NIT/2026-27,

Name of work: Construction of Common Central Secretariat Building (Kartavya Bhawan) 4 & 5 in Plot No. 120, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi including operation & Maintenance for 5 years.

Estimated cost: Rs. 3155,41,23,729.00/-
(Rs. 3057,11,03,260.00 Construction Work + Rs.98,30,20,469.00 Operation & Maintenance)

Earnest Money Rs. 31,65,41,237.00

Period of Completion: 24 Months (3 Months for planning, Designing, obtaining approvals & dismantling + 21 Months for Construction) + 60 months for operation & maintenance,

Pre-bid Meeting: 09/04/2026 at 11:00 Hrs,

Date & time of online submission of Bid: 30/04/2026 at 15:00 Hrs.

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etender.cpwd.gov.in.** All corrigendum/ addendums shall only be available on this website and shall not be published anywhere else.

MUTE, READ, REPEAT

Subtitles are changing the viewing game

'We're not just watching on-demand movies, we're reading them too'

'In English shows, words are fast and accents can be hard to follow, so subtitles help'

Shelby 2.0: Meet the new face of Peaky Blinders

MBD HELP DECIDE WHAT TO WATCH? WE'VE GOT YOU

AAHAA KUMBA

FILM REVIEWS

NOW IN CINEMAS

All jump, no landing in this Mario's overstuffed adventure

A louder, bloodier follow-up leans into excess over invention

OTT REVIEWS

NOW STREAMING

Ravi balances wit and drama in this courtroom comedy

Bright idea, but occasionally messy & slightly overstuffed

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
DC vs MI
TV TIME 3:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 37
Won by DC 16 (43.24%)
Won by MI 21 (56.76%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
DC W W L L NR
MI W L W L W
VENUE: NEW DELHI
ODDS
DC 6/4 | MI 6/10

IPL 2026

"I USED TO WATCH DALE STEYN A LOT WHEN I WAS YOUNG. THE WAY HE SWUNG THE BALL AT SUCH HIGH PACE INSPIRED ME TO BECOME A FAST BOWLER. HOPEFULLY, I WILL PLAY FOR INDIA ONE DAY. I USED TO GET SCOLDED A LOT BY MY FATHER FOR CONSTANTLY PLAYING CRICKET."
—Auqib Nabi | DC pacer

Shreyas Iyer, Priyansh Show The Way As PBKS Chase Down 210 With Ease For Second Straight Win

EASY DOES IT FOR FLAWLESS PUNJAB

BA Raju

KNOCK IN VAIN: Chennai Super Kings' Ayush Mhatre bats against Punjab Kings

Neha.Surana@timesofindia.com

Chennai: It's just two games into the IPL but Punjab Kings are exuding the swag of a top side. A chase of 210 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium against Chennai Super Kings is not easy business but Punjab achieved it in style on Friday to make it two wins on the bounce. They looked a complete side too, starting from the openers to the middle-order to the finishers. The bowlers did their bit in the first innings as Yuzvendra Chahal (1-21) dished out a superb spell of leg-spin bowling that kept CSK in check.

Priyansh Arya, one of the shining stars of last IPL, showed again why he is so highly rated in the circuit. Opening the Punjab innings with Prabhsimran Singh, the Delhi cricketer timed the ball beautifully and smashed Matt Henry, Khaleel Ahmed and Anshul Kamboj to all corners of the park. The left-hander's 39 off 11 balls helped Punjab race away to 61 off four overs, virtually killing off the game.

Arya did get bowled by Henry trying a big shot in the fifth over but his opening partner Prabhsimran (43 off 34 balls), along with Cooper Connolly (36 off 22 balls), kept up the good work. The beauty of the big chase was that there was no panic whatsover even when Prabhsimran was run out.

Connolly, and later Shreyas Iyer (50 off 28 balls), didn't allow the momentum to take a hit. The big shots kept flowing as Punjab notched up the required runs in 18.3 overs.

Mhatre impresses for CSK

CSK, though, will take heart from the batting show of their youngster Ayush Mhatre. The U-19 World Cup-winning skipper powered his way to 73 (43 balls; 6x4, 5x6) as CSK reached a competitive 209/5 after big-ticket signing Sanju Samson failed again. Mhatre, walking in at No. 3 after a first-ball duck in the previous match against RR, was on fire.

He smacked Punjab pacer Xavier Bartlett for three successive boundaries off the front foot and right after the Powerplay, launched into lanky left-arm pacer Marco Jansen, hitting two towering sixes.

While he was cautious against spin, the youngster used the pace of Punjab quicks to keep the boundaries flowing. Ayush brought up his half-century with a drive off Marcus Stoinis. At the other end, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad played second fiddle, content to watch Ayush's fireworks as the pair stitched together a 96-run stand for the second wicket.

Ayush, dropped twice on 59 and 67, might have liked to carry on, but medium-pacer Vijaykumar Vyshak finally removed him, caught at short third-man by Chahal.

SCOREBOARD

CSK: S Samson c Prabhsimran b Bartlett 7, R Gaikwad c Wadhera b Chahal 28, A Mhatre c Chahal b Vyshak 73, S Dube not out 45, K Sharma lbw b Jansen 1, S Khan c Wadhera b Vyshak 32, P Veer not out 6; **Extras: (b1, nb1, w15) 17; Total: (5 wkts; 20 ovrs) 209; FoW:** 1-14, 2-110, 3-123, 4- 130, 5-168; **Bowling:** Arshdeep 4-0-41-0, Bartlett 4-0-48-1, Jansen 4-0-43-1, Vyshak 4-0-38-2, Chahal 3-0-21-1, Stoinis 1-0-17-0.

PBKS: P Arya b Henry 39, P Singh run out 43, C Connolly c Henry b Kamboj 36, S Iyer c Chahar b Kamboj 50 , N Wadhera c Noor b Henry 10, S Singh not out 14, M Stoinis not out 9; **Extras: (lb1, w6, nb2) 9; Total (5 wkts, 18.4 ovrs) 210; FoW:** 1-61, 2-95, 3-127, 4-186, 5-186; **Bowling:** Khaleel 3-0-28-0, Henry 4-0-54-2, Kamboj 3.4-0-43-2, Noor 4-0-38-0, Chahar 4-0-46-0.

Result: PBKS won by 5 wickets

9 Punjab Kings became the first team to successfully chase 200+ scores nine times in the IPL — three times more than Mumbai Indians' tally of six. SRH chased 200+ scores five times.

18y 257d At this age, Ayush Mhatre (73 off 43 balls) is the first IPL batter to post a fifty before turning 19 at the Chepauk in Chennai.

3 Mhatre is the third batter to register two 50-plus innings or more before turning 19 in the IPL, joining Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (3) and Prithvi Shaw (2). Mhatre's highest score in the IPL is a 94 off 48 balls vs RCB in Bengaluru on May 3, 2025.

96 Runs put on by Gaikwad and Mhatre for the second wicket — CSK's highest for any wicket vs PBKS in Chennai in the IPL, bettering the 91 for the fourth wicket between S Badrinath & MS Dhoni on May 10, 2008.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI
THE SUGAR GOOGLY
That sugary cola leads to a 60% energy crash, making you miss the final overs.
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'Rohit had clear plan about his fitness, form'

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

Tarun Rawat

MI's Rohit Sharma with Mahela Jayawardene and Suryakumar Yadav during training on Friday

New Delhi: Rohit Sharma isn't missing any practice sessions with the Mumbai Indians team. In the nets on Friday afternoon at the Arun Jaitley stadium, he put his head down and mostly worked on perfecting his defensive technique. He refrained from playing the booming hits down the ground.

Rohit is 26 days short of turning 39 but the 15 kgs shed by him make him look younger, almost unrecognisable. He is clearly on a mission to prove his worth as an international class cricketer even as he faces constant scrutiny over his place in the Indian team for the 2027 ODI World Cup. The journey started with honest conversations with the Mumbai Indians management last year.

"He had a clear plan regarding his fitness. Some members of our set-up were involved in his training and he worked towards reaching a level he was comfortable with," Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said on Friday.

"Even though he didn't play much competitive cricket, he did a lot of skill work in the off-season. He joined us from first day of the camp and we had discussions on how to start. We ran several simulations and practice matches. For someone with his experience, a lot comes down to muscle memory and understanding situations," he added.

One of the major concerns around him is the lack of cricket he plays around the year after retiring from Tests and T20Is. He allayed those concerns in MI's opening game against KKR with a explosive 38-ball 78.

"Rohit's case was slightly different since he hadn't played much cricket. He focused on his fitness for a couple of months and then resumed skill work. Since he was in Mumbai, he used our facilities whenever possible but largely he knows what works best for him. He has stayed focused and relaxed and his presence has been very positive for the group. When I watched him in the nets, he looked in very good touch — his hand speed was excellent," Jayawardene said.

The true test of Rohit's endurance, ability and fitness will be judged by his run-scoring consistency throughout the long IPL season.

GT seek sharper edge against free-flowing RR

Sabu.Cherian@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Gujarat Titans will look to tighten up their game after opening their IPL campaign with a three-wicket defeat to Punjab Kings, while Rajasthan Royals arrive with momentum after an emphatic eight-wicket win in their first outing. That sets up an intriguing contest on Saturday.

On current evidence, the Titans-Royals meeting pits two distinct T20 approaches against each other. Gujarat's top order, led by Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan, is built around control and continuity. Rajasthan, by contrast, have leaned into early aggression, embodied by 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who blasted a 15-ball fifty in the opener.

FACE-OFF
GT vs RR
TV TIME: 7.30 PM
STAR SPORTS
JIOHOTSTAR

Gujarat's template is more conventional: preserve wickets, build steadily and trust the bowlers to defend a competitive total. That method can still work, but it leaves less margin for error when the innings lacks acceleration. In the defeat to Punjab, the Titans' middle order came under pressure after the top three failed to fully capitalise.

Rajasthan, meanwhile, look dangerous precisely because of their volatility. Their batting can seize a game in the Powerplay and their attack has variety as well as experience. Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger provide pace while Ravindra Jadeja and Ravi Bishnoi offer control and wicket-taking options.

Hardik keen to convey ODI bowling fitness

MI Captain Increases Workload To Prove Ability To Bowl 10 Overs As Selectors Plan For 2027 WC

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

ANI

HARDIK PANDYA

New Delhi: Hardik Pandya didn't turn up for either of the two afternoon practice sessions ahead of Mumbai Indians' match against Delhi Capitals here on Saturday. The MI captain doesn't want to push his injury-prone body during the gruelling two-month long IPL schedule. Hardik, however, is fighting another battle besides planning the campaign for the five-time champions.

TOI understands he has been working overtime for the last four months to assure the Indian team management and the selectors that he is ready to bowl his full quota of 10 overs in ODIs. India's preparation for the ODI World Cup in Oct-Nov 2027 will be in full swing after the IPL.

While announcing the team for the three-match ODI series against New Zealand on Jan 3, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia mentioned that Hardik was not cleared to bowl 10 overs in a match by the Centre of Excellence (CoE). The BCCI release also claimed that Hardik was being preserved for the subsequent T20 World Cup. Interestingly, five days later Hardik bowled 10 overs for figures of 3/66 in a Vijay Hazare Trophy match against Chandigarh.

Hardik, it is learnt, had reached out to selectors and the Indian team management in Jan. The team management conveyed it to him that they will prefer his availability to bowl 10 overs leading up to the World Cup in South Africa next year.

Hardik suffered a quadricep injury before the Asia Cup final in Sept and made a comeback in T20I cricket on Dec 9 in the series against South Africa. Sources told **TOI** that Hardik had communicated his desire to play in both white-ball formats but the BCCI took a conservative approach with the T20 World Cup in mind.

"Hardik is expected to play a big role in the ODI setup since the World Cup will be played on fast and bouncy pitches in South Africa. He can lend perfect balance to the side but he has to convince selectors and the team management that he will be available to bowl 10 overs.The captain may end up bowling him for 6-7 overs in most matches. But he should be available if the captain needs more from him," a BCCI source said. "The selectors are also looking at other seam-bowling options. Nitish Kumar Reddy has increased his bowling workload in domestic cricket as well," the source added.

Hardik has been putting in the hard yards at the CoE and beyond that, he shuttles between Mumbai and Baroda, training with his own dedicated team.

WEATHER 27°C

4 Matches lost by Delhi Capitals out of the last five played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in 2025 — one each to MI, RCB, KKR and GT. Their only win came vs RR in the Super Over on April 16.

'A lot has changed for me, mentally & technically'

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

TOI Exclusive

DEVDUTT PADIKKAL

New Delhi: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Devdutt Padikkal is no longer just an elegant timer of the ball. He's evolving into a complete T20 force. Fresh off a blistering 61 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, a fearless Padikkal, in an exclusive interview to **TOI**, opened up on the mental reset behind his shift to a more aggressive style of batting. Excerpts...

That 61 off 26 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, did it feel like a continuation of your Vijay Hazare Trophy form or was there a conscious shift in approach for the IPL?

It's very different when you go into an IPL game. But at the same time, having runs is always a confidence booster. Having all those runs in the domestic season definitely helped me be a lot more confident and calmer when I went out there to bat. But at the end of the day, you need to have a very aggressive approach when you go into the IPL. Your mindset shifts.

You've gone from being seen as a classical top-order batter to someone who can switch gears explosively. What changed?

There's a lot that's changed mentally and technically. Mentally, you need to believe you're capable of batting at a tempo that is going to make you successful in the IPL. It's something I had to work on a lot. I grew up batting a certain way and to make that shift is not that easy. Of course, technically I've worked with Andy Flower, Mo Bobat and Dinesh Karthik quite a lot over the last couple of years to get certain things right in terms of my balance while I bat, the positions that I get into before the ball is released and some other batting-related things. I won't go into the technicalities but there is definitely a lot that has gone into getting to where I am right now.

With RCB having multiple power-hitters, how do you define your role in this lineup?

We have some really explosive batters throughout. When you have that kind of firepower, you need to make sure that you don't break that momentum. That's what I look to do and just keep it simple.

You've had good IPL seasons before but the India call-up hasn't come as frequently...

Of course, playing for India is the ultimate goal. Whenever you score runs, you hope that you are being noticed and that you are in the reckoning to play for the country. But at the end of the day, you can only control what you can. Hopefully, if I continue to perform well and continue to do the right things, I'll get there eventually. I don't try to keep it (selection call) out of my head because that is a goal I want to achieve. It keeps driving me.

It's important that you continue to dream and continue to make sure that those thoughts are not leaving you.

(This interaction was facilitated by JioStar)

Rahane lashes out at 'jealous' critics

Archiman.Bhaduri
@timesofindia.com

AJINKYA RAHANE

Kolkata: Has Ajinkya Rahane started feeling the heat after Kolkata Knight Riders suffered back-to-back defeats at the start of their campaign in this IPL? This is only the second time in the three-time champions' history that they have had such a poor start to a season.

The KKR skipper, known to be calm and composed person, lashed out at critics following the team's 65-run defeat to SRH on Thursday.

Rahane's strike rate has come under the scanner since he came out to open, pushing KKR's long-time belligerent opener Sunil Narine down the order. "I know what I'm doing, I know what I've done in the past and I back myself instead of thinking about what others are saying. Whoever is talking about it, let them talk," he said when asked about the issue.

"I have the best strike rate so far, from 2023. People who are talking are probably not watching the game or have a certain agenda against me," he added.

The 37-year-old Mumbai batter captained KKR last season too, scoring 390 runs from 13 matches at a strike rate of 147.73. He was Mumbai's top run-getter in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy, scoring 391 runs from 10 innings at a strike rate of 161.57.

"The amount of success which I got, I guess they are jealous of me. I am not too worried.

"You guys know what I am doing. People who are talking, either they don't understand the game (or) I think they want me to play a different kind of innings. They didn't expect that Ajinkya Rahane would improve his game this much. So I'm happy they are talking about me, negative or positive either way. Let them talk," he said.

However, he admitted that KKR are yet to get their team combination right.

"Winning home games is really important and we just have to go back to the drawing board, just think about our combinations. The middle overs were the crucial time and we needed those partnerships from the set batters and that just didn't happen," he pointed out, hoping Australian Cameron Green would start bowling soon.

Stern Goa test awaits BFC

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesofindia.com

Panaji: One of the two unbeaten sides in the Indian Super League (ISL), FC Goa have registered three draws in a row and will now be keen to start winning, given that they play their next three games at home. The first is a big clash against Bengaluru FC at Fatorda on Saturday.

Goa are sixth with ten points from six matches. Coach Manolo Marquez has said "people don't really understand how difficult it is to play with (just) two foreigners,"

ISL

but four draws, particularly against three teams who are lower ranked, should make him think. Both wins have come against bottom-ranked sides.

"I think we played better in the beginning than in the last two games (against Punjab and Chennaiyin, both draws)," said Manolo. "We now face Bengaluru, a top team, one that always has the maximum foreign players in the national team, along with Mohun Bagan. They can qualify for the AFC Champions League."

Bengaluru picked up seven points from their last three games but that wasn't enough for Renedy Singh to hold on to his position as chief coach. The club has now appointed Pep Munoz, who was part of the youth system at Barcelona's famous La Masia academy.

"I know Pep Munoz, a top coach, who did well in Cambodia and China. On the other end, everyone speaks of providing chances to Indian coaches. It is difficult to do better than Renedy. I don't know if he's sacked, whether he will leave or remain on the bench because the coach is still not here. Whoever is in charge, our approach won't change," said Manolo.

Munoz is yet to arrive in India, so it will be Renedy who will call the shots from the bench.

"Goa haven't lost a game so far, but if we look at our matches against Inter Kashi, Mohammedan, and Mohun Bagan, we have had a good run and must capitalise on the strengths. This will be my last game in charge, but I am sure that when Pep comes in, he will implement his own ideas, and the players will adapt," said Renedy.

Today's result: Punjab FC 2 (Nsungusi Jr Effiong 47, Dani Ramirez 52) bt Mohammedan Sporting Club 1 (Lalremsanga Fanai 29).

GATTUSO QUITS AFTER ITALY FAIL TO QUALIFY FOR WORLD CUP

Rome: Gennaro Gattuso's reign as Italy manager ended on Friday, the country's football federation (FIGC) said, after the national team's failure to qualify for the World Cup. Italy lost Tuesday's playoff final in Bosnia and the four-times champions have now missed out on three consecutive World Cups.

FOOTBALL

Gattuso's departure came a day after FIGC president Gabriele Gravina resigned, and national team delegation head Gianluigi Buffon stepped down from his role. "With a heavy heart, having failed to achieve the goal we had set ourselves, I consider my time in charge of the national team to be over," Gattuso said in a statement.

"It has been an honour to lead the national team, and to do so with a group of lads who have shown commitment and loyalty to the shirt."

The FIGC thanked Gattuso for his work. "The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) and Gennaro Ivan Gattuso have mutually terminated the contract that bound the Calabrian coach to the helm of Azzurri, the Italian national football team," the FIGC said in a statement. "The FIGC thanks Gattuso and his entire staff for the professionalism, dedication and passion with which they have worked." AP

HI official faces misconduct charges

Arnab.Seal@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: At a time when Hockey India's focus is on performance in a crucial year, it has received a detailed complaint alleging serious misconduct, including sexual harassment and abuse of authority against a Hockey India official.

HOCKEY

An email from an anonymous sender, a copy of which is with TOI, was sent to the director general of the Sports Authority of India, Kalpana Sharma, director, SAI Internal Complaints Committee and HI president Dilip Tirkey, flagging "serious and ongoing concerns regarding the conduct" of an official. Tirkey confirmed to **TOI** that HI had received the mail.

The email accuses the official of "sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct towards female officials, coaches and players, pressuring individuals to engage in inappropriate personal interactions, including repeated unwanted calls, threats of damaging or ending careers upon refusal, demanding money under the pretext of coaching or professional opportunities and seeking inappropriate photographs." This is not the first complaint against the individual and had resigned in the past as well.

KARNATAKA REIGNS SUPREME

Raipur: Karnataka emerged as the overall champions, with 23 gold medals in the inaugural Khelo India Tribal Games, which concluded here on Friday.

In addition to 23 gold medals, Karnataka picked up eight silver and seven bronze medals to clinch the overall champions crown, with Odisha finishing second.

TRIBAL GAMES

Karnataka's Manikanta L was the most successful athlete of the Games with eight gold and one silver, while his teammate Dhoneesh N bagged five gold and a silver for his effort in the swimming competition.

Among the women, swimmer Meghanjali of Karnataka finished with four gold and two bronze medals. PTI

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SNAP SHOTS

NIKHAT, PRIYA & PREETI MARCH INTO SEMIS

Nikhat Zareen, Priya and Preeti Pawar qualified for the semifinals of the Asian Boxing Championships, assuring India of at least three medals in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on Friday. Nikhat was in complete control in the women's 51kg quarterfinal, sealing a first-round RSC victory over Xian Baguhin from the Philippines. In the women's 60kg category, Priya defeated China's Chengyu Yang 4-1. In the women's 54kg category, Preeti defeated Mongolia's Mungun Tsetseg with a 5-0 unanimous decision victory.

India lose to Bangladesh: The Indian football team suffered a heartbreaking 3-4 defeat to Bangladesh on penalties in the final of the SAFF Men's U-20 Championship at the National Stadium in Male, Maldives on Friday. This was Bangladesh's second SAFF Under-20 Championship title. The summit showdown went to penalty shootout after both teams were locked at 0-0 at the end of regulation time, having failed to break the deadlock despite coming close on a few occasions.

Kochhar lies ties second: Karandeep Kochhar fired a second straight bogey free round was one shot off the lead with a six-under 65 at the International Series Japan. Kochhar (67-65) is 10-under at the Par-71 course. The only other Indian making the cut was the legend Jeev Milkha Singh (72-69), who produced a late birdie on the 17th to squeeze inside the cut line at 1-under.

Aditi highest placed Indian: Aditi Ashok was the top placed Indian at tied-58th spot after the first round of the Aramco Championships golf tournament in Las Vegas. She carded 2-over 72. Among other Indians, Avani Prashanth, Diksha Dagar and Pranavi Urs were way down. Avani and Diksha carded rounds of 3-over 75 to find themselves at T-71 while Pranavi carded 4-over 76 to put herself at T-90.

India's challenge ends: Indian cagers in both the men and women section crashed out of the 3x3 Asia Cup basketball tournament in Singapore on Friday. While Indian women failed to qualify for the main draw, their men counterparts went down fighting against New Zealand 11-16, and Qatar 10-16 in their pool D league encounters.

Mickelson to miss Masters: Phil Mickelson will not compete in next week's Masters and will be out indefinitely as his family deals with a personal health matter, the three-times champion said on Thursday.

Selection trials: Hockey Karnataka will conduct selection trials to pick the state junior women's team on April 10, 2026, at the hockey stadium in Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru, to pick the team for the Nationals. The trials will begin at 9.30 am. The championship will be held in Pune, Maharashtra, from April 29 to May 10. Players born on or after Jan 1, 2007, are eligible.

Sindarov continues surge

Uzbek GM Punishes Nakamura For Unprecedented 4.5 Pts

Amit.Karmarkar@timesofindia.com

Trust Hikaru Nakamura to mess things up. The American played for a speculative advantage against World Cup winner Javokhir Sindarov but the American, who played against players rated Elo 500 or lower than him for his entry in the Candidates, got outplayed by the runaway Uzbek leader in Cyprus on Friday.

In the process, Sindarov has made his pole position stronger with fourth win to jump to 4.5 points after five rounds of the eight-player 14-round tournament. If the general consensus is that nine points are enough to win this tournament for a shot at the World title — in this case against D Gukesh — Sindarov needs to score just 4.5 points in the remaining 9 games.

CANDIDATES CHESS

Nakamura had said on his streaming channel that if he cannot beat Sindarov, he could well be forced to treat the remaining event as vacation. Sadly, his defeat could mean he had taken the suspense away from the double round-robin event and made the lives of other rivals of Sindarov more difficult.

FIDE

CHECKMATE: Javokhir Sindarov

Though Caruna defeated Matthias Blubaum to limit the damage due to Nakamura's continued below-par effort, R Praggnanadhaa and Anish Giri could only draw their respective games to remain two full points behind Sindarov.

Nakamura took 67 minutes to make a sub-par pawn push (h4) on the 13th turn instead of playing a multi-purpose knight move. His giving away three pawns for a possible kingside attack made it somewhat exciting too. But Sindarov was up to the task. His one rook and queen were not in ideal squares to harass Nakamura.

The latter's two bishops were in the centre of the board and queen and g-file rook more potent. The World Cup winner uncorked a principled g6 move before a tempting knight move that would have attacked both rook and queen simultaneously. With that he defused all threats to his position, exchanged all the major pieces except the opposite-coloured bishop and hit home the advantage in 41 moves. Earlier, his pawn push to c5 had avoided an evaluation 'swing' of four bars in Nakamura's favour.

Nakamura was expected to be well prepared in this line of Queens Gambit Declined but Sindarov was more than ready with black pieces and scored his maiden classical win over world No. 2 Nakamura in their second career game.

Sreeshankar in focus at Athletics Series opener

Times News Network

Bengaluru: With the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) tightening qualification norms for premier national competitions, close to 800 athletes will be in action at the opening leg of the Indian Athletics Series at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

Among the star attractions will be Asian Games silver medallist in men's long jump, **Sreeshankar M.** The 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist will open his season in the city and aim to breach the qualification marks for this year's Asian Games and CWG.

TRACK & FIELD

"Sreeshankar, who is representing NCOE Trivandrum, is in good shape. He will compete here and then at the Simbine Classic in Pretoria on April 28. I expect him to touch the qualification marks in Bengaluru," his father and coach S Murali told **TOI.**

Sreeshankar's main challenge is likely to come from Mohammed Anees (Reliance), who has a personal best of 8.15m. The field also includes National indoor champion Sarun Payashingh of Odisha.

In the women's long jump event, Asian Indoor Championships silver medallist Ancy Sojan (Reliance) will renew her rivalry with Shaili Singh (Anju Bobby HPC), who finished behind her at the 2025 Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea.

Meanwhile, several top sprinters have skipped the meet due to concerns over the track condition at the stadium. "The starting area for the 100m dash is not in good shape, due to which many of the top sprinters from NCOE, Trivandrum, are missing in action. They are all aiming to get off the blocks at the Delhi leg scheduled next week," a source revealed.

The new domestic series will feature 16 meets across the country until Sept 5. After the Bengaluru opener, the second leg will be held in Jaipur on Sunday, followed by New Delhi (April 11) and Ranchi (April 12). The series will culminate with its final leg here.

Advani, Shahbaaz in semis

Times News Network

Pankaj Advani, winner of the 9-ball event three days ago, powered into the semifinals of the 10-ball championships at the Rotary Bhawan in Ludhiana on Friday.

Advani carried far too many guns for reigning champion Shivam Arora in the quarterfinals. The seasoned Bengaluru cueist's lopsided 8-2 victory helped him set up a last-four showdown with fellow PSPB cueist **Shahbaaz Adil Khan**. The latter prevailed by a similar margin over Punjab's Sumesh Jhangra in the other quarters.

POOL NATIONALS

The other semifinal will be played between Railways' Pushpender Singh and Aayush Kumar of Punjab. While Pushpender edged out Divya Sharma of Punjab 8-6, Aayush overcame Chetan Chabra of Telangana 8-7.

Results (10-ball pool): Men: Quarterfinals: Pankaj Advani (PSPB) bt Shivam Arora (Mah) 8-2; Shahbaaz Adil Khan (PSPB) bt Sumesh Jhangra (Pun) 8-2; Pushpender Singh (RSPB) bt Divya Sharma (Har) 8-6; Aayush Kumar (Pun) bt Chetan Chabra (Tel) 8-7.

Pre-quarters: Advani bt Anurag Giri (MP) 8-3; Shivam bt Harpreet S Grover (Del); Jhangra bt Kushal Chandrashekar (Kar) 8-5; Shahbaaz bt Ranveer Duggal (Chd) 8-5; Pushpender bt Harshit Sharma (MP) 8-2; Divya bt Nitin Sharma (Chd) 8-7; Chabra bt Dhruv Varma (Pun) 8-1; Ayush bt Abhinav Dhiman (Har) 8-5.

DHARWAD POWER PAST BAGALKOTE

A brace from Mithun B helped Dharwad District Hockey Association get past Bagalkote Jilla Hockey Association 7-3 in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league championship in Bengaluru on Friday. In another tie, Bangalore Friends HC registered a 5-1 win over Southern Alpha Sports Association. **Results:** Dharwad DHA: 7 (Raghvendra 5, Lokesh Ballari 7, Mithun B 18, 37; Subhani 31, Ankith 33, Aksha 41) bt Bagalkote Jilla HA: 3 (Shubam 8, Vinayak 14, 45); B'lore Friends HC: 5 (Suresh 6, 39, 43, Ashin 45, Rahul 48) bt SASA: 1 (Vignesh 46). **Today's match:** Naveen vs SASA, 3pm. TNN

Aakash powers MNK Rao into final

Times News Network

Chethan Shivakumar

Bengaluru: MNK Rao Park BC boys staged a spirited fightback to storm into the final of the State Junior Basketball Championship here on Friday.

In their last league-cum-knockout match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, they registered an 81-65 win over PPC. Aakash top-scored with 24 points as MNK Rao Park overcame a halftime deficit, having trailed 33-36 at the break. In the title round, MNK Rao Park will take Beagles Basketball Club, who won three of their four league outings.

EYE ON THE BALL: Anshul (left) of Viveks SC attempts to get past HBR BC's Rishit in Bengaluru on Friday

In the girls' section, Bangalore Vanguards and DYES, Vidyanagar continued their dominance. Both teams won their respective matches to set up a clash in the round-robin league final on Saturday. Ishita of DYES, Vidyanagar scored 53 points across the two games, emerging as a key player to watch for Bangalore Vanguards in the final.

Results: League-cum-knockout: Boys: HBR BC 70 (Rishith 19, Siddhartha 16) bt Viveks SC 61 (Anshul 23) HT 25-35; MNK Rao Park BC 81 (Aakash 24, Vijayeendra 19) bt PPC 65 (Ryan Joseph 22, Adithya 19) HT 33-36. **Round-robin league: Girls:** Bangalore Vanguards 67 (Aditi 29, Mahek Sharma 26) bt Beagles BC 54 (Swathi 21) HT 26-18; DYES Vidyanagar 71 (Ishitha 23, Sheetal 14) bt Viveks SC 37 (Limisha 14) HT 37-20; DYES, Vidyanagar 76 (Ishitha 30, Deepika 16) bt Mandya Dist 34 (Manasa 16) HT 46-27; Bangalore Vanguards 73 (Mahek Sharma 21, Pranjal 14) bt Viveks SC (Jeyashree 15, Linisha 15) HT 45-21. **Today's matches (Finals):** Girls : Bangalore Vanguards vs DYES, Vidhyanagar 2.30pm; Boys: Beagles vs MNK Rao Park BC (4pm).

—Kaushal Kumar

Northern Waves for feature

Times News Network

Hyderabad: Northern Waves should run away with top honours in the Brave Dancer Plate, the feature of the races here on Saturday. First race starts at 2.55 pm.

SELECTIONS

1. Cyndy Plate 1800M: Mysore Pharaoh 1, Yuvraj 2

2. Galactica Plate 1200M: Cypress 1, Arthisha 2

RACE SELECTIONS

3. Grace Hanover Plate (Div I) 1200M: Sharanga 1, NRI Triple Power 2

4. Solitaire Plate 1400M: NRI Range 1, Clefairy 2; **5. Windscale Plate 1600M:** Excalibur 1, Toshiro 2

6. Brave Dancer Plate 1200M: Northern Waves 1, Vivaldo 2

7. Grace Hanover Plate (Div II) 1200M: Ayushman 1, Greif 2

8. Next Move Plate 1200M: Deccan Ranger 1, Char Ek Char 2

Day's best: Northern Waves.

IGPL unveils new 10-team league

Daniyal.Abdulla@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The AM Green India Golf Premier League unveiled its ambitious team-based league with the announcement of the squads for its ten franchises here.

The inaugural season will feature 15 events, with 10 staged across franchise home cities in India and five held overseas. The first international leg will take the league to Mauritius, South Africa and Congo later this month,. The league will feature 10 franchises, which include Atri Mumbai GC, Auro Realty Goa GC, Green Fuels Vizag GC, Flying Man Kolkata GC, Golf Konnekt Bengaluru, Honer Homes Gurugram, Krishna Punjab GC, Phoenix Hyderabad GC, RVR Delhi GC and Vimtra Chennai GC.

Co-founder Yuvraj Singh highlighted the league's dynamic format, stating that the team component would inject pace and excitement into the game. Each team consists of four players. At each event, players will compete for individual prizes from a pool of Rs 1.5 crore.

The two best scores from each team every day will count towards the team placings. Points will be accumulated over the season, at the end of which the top three teams will be decided and rewarded.

Dhiraj Jain, owner of the Bengaluru franchise, expressed confidence in his squad and the league's direction.

Golf Konnekt Bengaluru team: Veer Ganapathy, Sunhit Bishnoi, Trishul Chinnappa and Sudhir Sharma

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elter Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru – 560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX - 080-42200000, Editorial: 080-46738787) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raaj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560099 (Ph: 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400 001.
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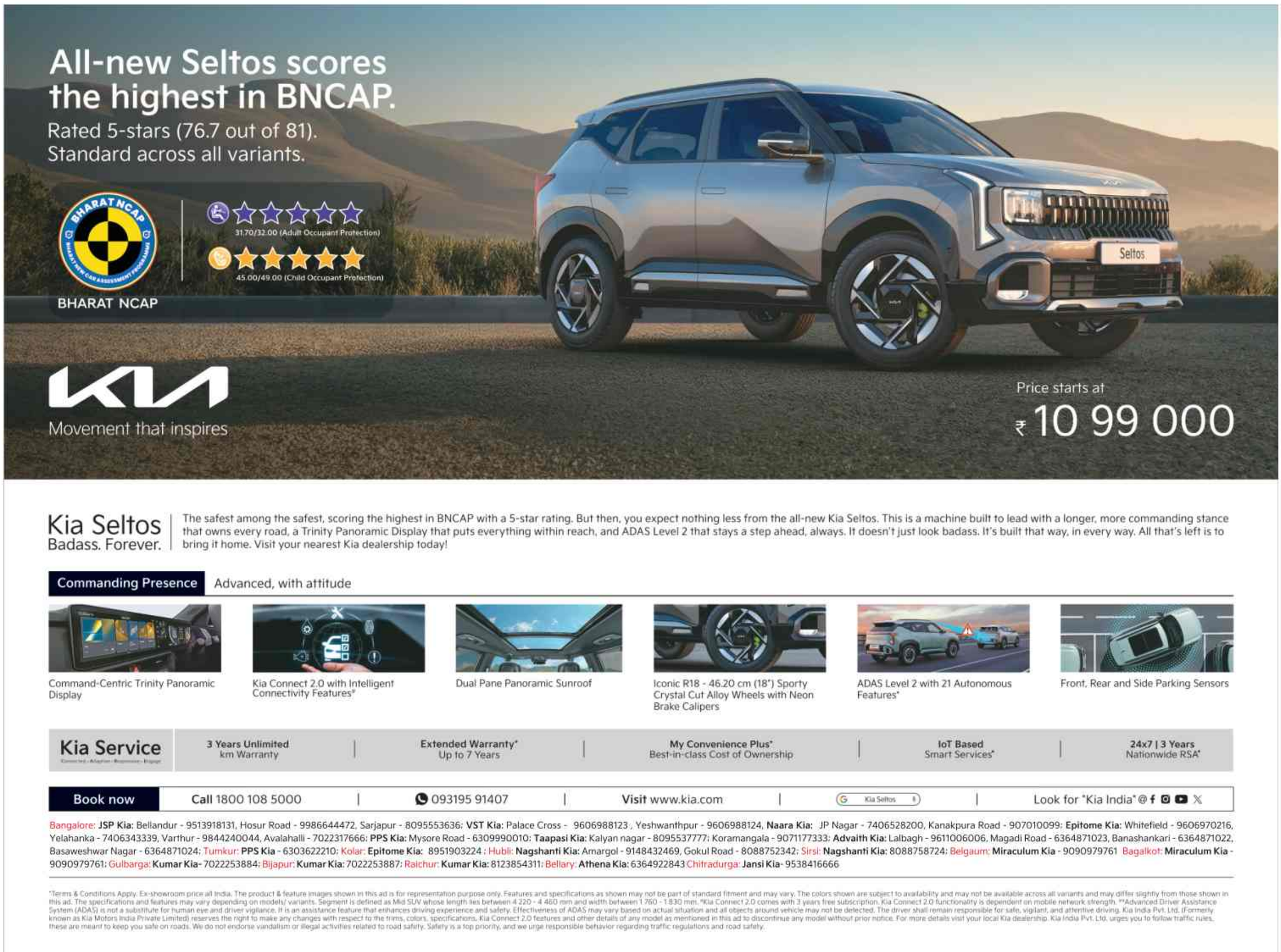

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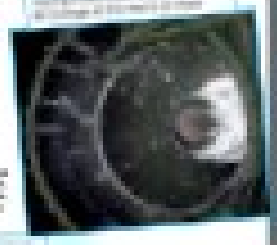

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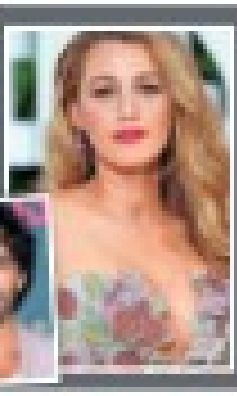

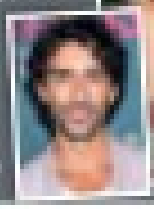

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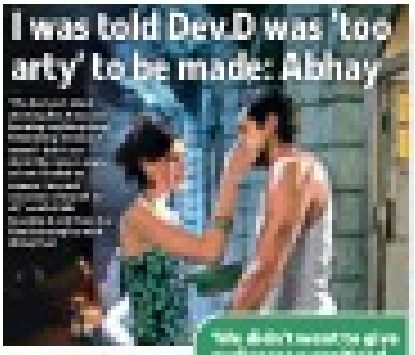

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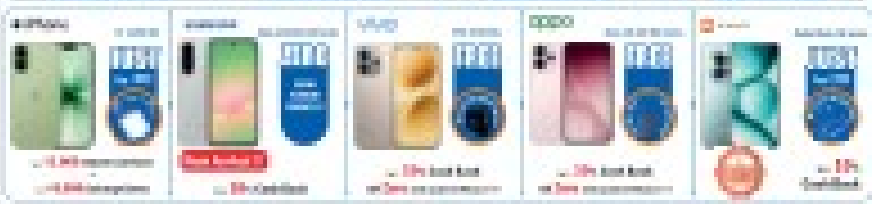

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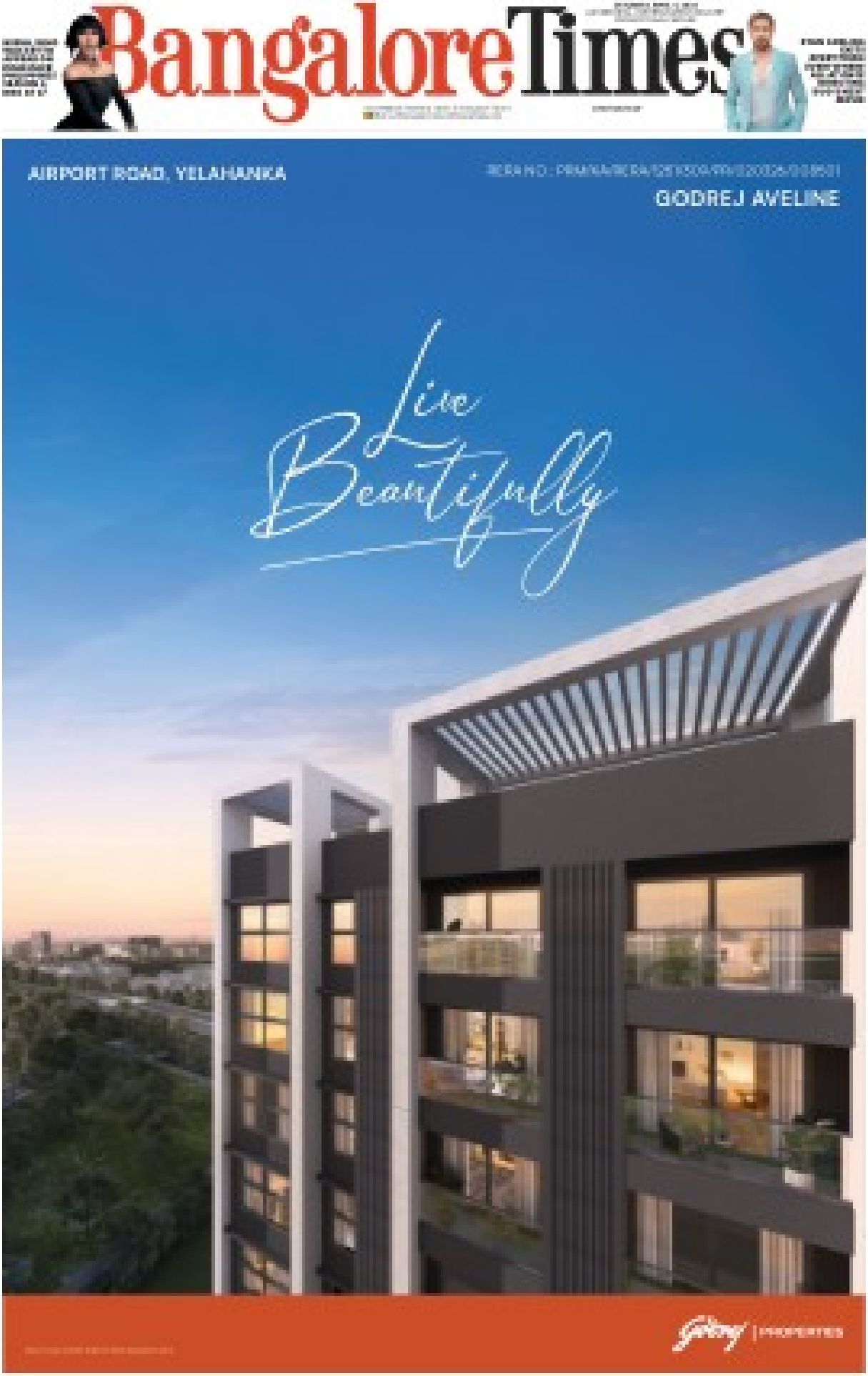

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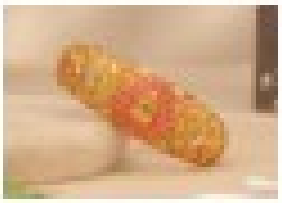

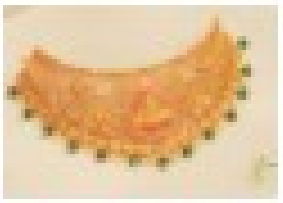

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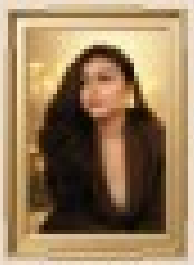

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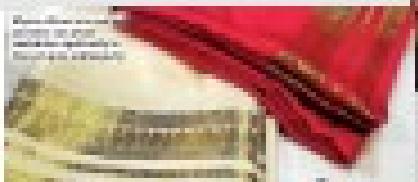

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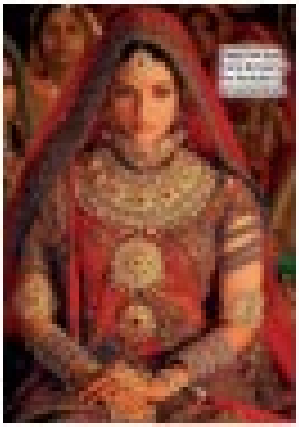

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